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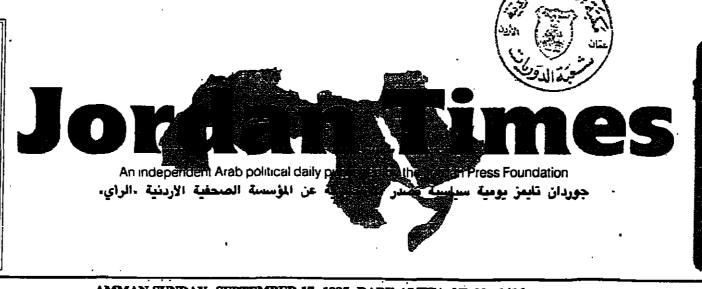
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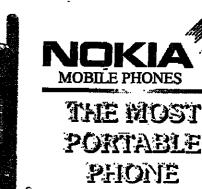
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AMMAN SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1995, RABI' ALTHA-NI 22, 1416

King: Jordan's policy towards Iraq is consistent

Jordan and its people care for Iraq and its people and are committed to helping alleviate their suffering Calls for pinpointing root problem ahead of dialogue cannot be interference in Iraq's internal affairs Those who accuse Jordan of interference have a record of interference by themselves while Jordan does not

HM cites Haiti as an example where last-minute political dialogue averted bloodshed and violence

By Elia Nasrallah

Jordan Times Staff Reporter AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday dismissed contentions that he was now pursuing a new policy vis-a-vis Iraq and stressed that Jordan has been consistent in its support of the unity. and sovereignty of that country and the well-being of its

people.
"There has been much talk and many contentions, whether in the media or by politicians, both professionals and amateurish," that Jor-dan has changed its policies on Iraq, the King told newspaper editors at the Royal

But go back to what I have been saying (over the past few years) and you will see that we have not shifted. or changed from the policy we pursued," he added. "Our emphasis has consistently been on preserving Iraq (as a country), help its people with transferring medicine and food shipments to it and work towards lifting

the sanctions against them." "There has been talk about public opinion being heavily in support of Iraq," the King said. "I have more trust in public opinion than anybody else and am characteristically pleased about (Jordanians') feelings for Iraqis since I have played a major role in ralying people and in directing them towards supporting Iraq during the challenges and the battles they had faced. I still do not know on what grounds those who say there has been a change in policy base their theories," he added. "We

have accepted what happened in 1958 and respected the wish of Iraqis. We stood by Iraq ever since, despite the fact that we were not consulted on major decisions and actions by the Iraqi leaders, such as the invasion (in 1990) of Kuwait. We have offered Iraq what we could to the extent that (Baghdad) now owes us \$1.1 billion, to the dismay of our creditors. We are still getting oil supplies from Iraq, even though



His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday addresses Jordanian newspaper editors at a meeting held. at the Royal Court attended by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, the King's advisers and top officials (Petra photo)

we have to look for an alternative source in case there is a surprise move like that of 1958. We have not thought for one moment of closing the border. And I

have stressed once and again that I have no ambitions in

What has changed now in as far as the situation in Iraq is concerned, the King said, is being threatened, whether from external or internal sources. "The picture that we have received about the internal situation is in no way satisfactory. On the other hand outside pressures are

continuing," he said.
"What I have been trying to do, therefore, is to give advice and counsel as well as stress the need for reconciliation among Iraq's three religions and ethnic groups (Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds), the need for respect of political pluralism and democracy and for the Iraqis to enjoy their legitimate rights and to get

"The question that I ask myself," the King went on to. "is whether we have indeed carried out our duty towards rescuing Iraq."
"We, here in Jordan, have

our National Charter under which we enjoy democracy, pluratism and human rights." His Majesty said. "Now, do we accept those values for ourselves and not for the others? Should not we wish

the same (progress) for our brothers in Iraq and the Arab

empathy for our Iragi brethren who could for ever lose their unity without achieving reconciliation, democracy and pluralism? Do we commit a crime by talking about such reconciliation, especially when the alternative could be a bloodbath? Is it our duty to keep silent about what is happening inside Iraq? Do we accept double standards or strive to have a clear conscience in so far as the plight of the Iraqis is concerned? Should not a person, according to our religion, caution his brother when the latter is in trouble and edging towards the pre-

King Hussein indirectly criticised Arab countries who questioned his decision to grant asylum to General Hussein Kamel, saying Jordan had always been a safe haven for free Arabs who sought

(Continued on page 7)

Jolt in Iraq-Jordan ties is over and done with - Iraqi minister

CAIRO (AFP) - Rela- in the defection of former ted the defections had tions between Iraq and Jortions of two Iraqi officials last month are on the road to recovery, Iraqi Finance Minister Ahmad Hussein Khudayyar said in remarks published Saturday.

"The defection of Hussein Kamel gave Jordanian-Iragi relations a major jolt which has now been overtaken."

"These relations are now in a period of convalesche told Saturday's edition of the Egyptian daily Al Ahram. Baghdad did not have

"any hard and fast information" that "neighbouring countries" were implicated

Iraqi Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Mr. Khudayyar said alluding to Jordan which has given him asvlum.

But he "had certainly coordinated with several parties" his flight from Iraq on Aug. 8 along with his brother and their wives, both daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, he added.

King Hussein criticised the Iraqi government after the defections in a nationwide address in which he said his eyes had been opened to the reality of what was happening in Baghdad.

The Iraqi minister admit-

weakened Iraq's position in the five-year-old U.N. oil and trade embargo, after Lieutenant-General Kamel revealed Baghdad had planned to invade Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at the

end of August.

The sanctions, imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, were renewed by the Security Council earlier this month. Mr. Khudayyar pledged Iraq would pay all the compensation demanded following the 1991 Gulf war, but called on countries

wanting such payments to

"first call for a lifting of the embargo."

Serbs tardy in moving guns;

SARAJEVO (Agencies) are not moved.

Low-flying NATO reconover the Bosnian capital.

ness.

on Saturday for more talks er, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The Bosnian government is ped up more than 2,000 unhappy with the U.S.-Serb agreement because it includes only very large-calibre weapons - mortars bigger than 82 millimetres and artil-.

and NATO had insisted on withdrawal of all guns over

The Serbs also agreed to reopen Sarajevo airport to U.N. and humanitarian flights after five months and to give U.N. and relief agencies access to two roads connecting the city to the outside world.

Defence Minister Charles Millon of France was aboard the first plane to land Friday afternoon. The first U.S. air force plane bringing aid arrived without problems Saturday. Land routes were also operating smoothly.

But the rebels were defiant elsewhere, firing two surfaceto-air missiles Friday at NATO reconnaissance plane near the eastern government enclave of Gorazde. The NATO plane was not hit and the alliance, clearly concerned about keeping Mr. Holbrooke's peace plan on track, did not retaliate.

The U.S. peace initiative gives the Muslim-led Bosnian government and its Croat allies 51 per cent of Bosnia, and the Serbs, who now have about two-thirds of the territory, 49 per cent. U.S. Defence Secretary

William Perry said during a visit to Rome: "It might be a couple of months but if this process stays on track, I believe we will have a peace agreement this year." He was confident enough

to cancel a plan to send Stealth fighters to Italy in readiness for use against the Serbs. But resumption of the two-

allies in central and north-

west Bosnia which has mop-

square kilometres of Serb

territory during the last

Sarajevo Radio said gov-

(Continued on page 7)

them again.

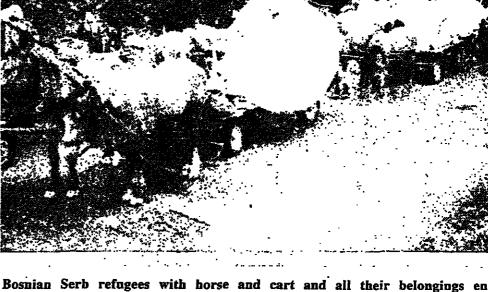
week.

week bombing campaign would again strain relations between the Western allies and Russia. U.N. sources were concerned that the Serbs might be using the tensions between

the West and Russia to test NATO's resolve to bomb Bosnian government forces vices." claimed fresh gains in an offensive with their Croat

Mumtziz said.

He also pointed to the "bad psychological state" of the families, who "are willing



route to Banja Luka in central Bosnia. (AFP photo)

Israel, PLO in intense push to seal agreement

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAELI FOREIGN Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat were meeting in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba on Saturday in an all-out drive to strike a deal on extending autonomy. The two men hoped to

initial a deal on spreading self-rule across the West Bank by Sunday in time for a signing ceremony in Washington next Thursday. Mr. Arafat travelled to

Alexandria on Egypt's Mediterranean coast ahead of the talks to meet President Hosni Mubark and Foreign Minister Amr Musa. But the venue of his meet-

ing with Mr. Peres was not announced until the last mi-Control of the latest the latest terms of the nute by officials on either "The talks will take place

in Taba. That's definite." Israeli foreign ministry spokesman Daniel Shek said late Saturday, finally clearing up the confusion. Mr. Peres had said he 'preferred" the talks to take

place in Taba, just across the border from the Israeli resort of Eilat where teams of negotiatiors are working flat out to try to resolve the remaining problems.

and the second s The Palestinians had wanted the meeting in the capital Cairo.

new plan to resolve the deadlock over Hebron when he meets Mr. Arafat, but declined to give details.

"Hebron is the most complex place including the population make-up and no less than this is the tension that exists between the two populations," Mr. Peres told Israel army radio.

Hebron, a traditional flashpoint for Arab-Jewish violence, is the only Palestinian city with Jewish settlers living in its centre.

Some 400 Jews live surrounded by 120,000 Palestinians in the heart of the city. Mr. Peres refused to divulge details of his latest proposals concerning Hebron but he said the Palestinians "have no idea what we will be

proposing."
Israel has said it must keep troops in part of Hebron to protect the settlers. The PLO insists troops leave all but the heart of the city where special temporary arrangements could be made to protect the

A statement issued by Mr. Arafat's Fatch faction warned against signing an accord without finding a solution to Hebron and the other vexed issue of the release of Palestinians held in Israeli

"Fateh does not see a possibility to implement any

Mr. Peres said he had a agreement on the ground without finding a solution to these two issues," the statement said.

Israel is still holding some 5,000 Palestinians in jail. although earlier this month Israel said it would free two groups of Palestinian prisoners after an accord was signed.

Officials on both sides say they hope to sign the self-rule extension at the White House next Thursday.

But many target dates have come and gone even though under the original peace deal Israeli troops were to have begun moving out of "populated areas" in the West Bank 16 months ago.

An Israeli official said it would be a "catastrophe" if Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres failed to clinch an agreement in Taba. 'Time is working in the

favour of opponents to the peace process, in Israel as well as in the territories," he told reporters. If the deal is not signed next week, further talks will have to be put off until mid-

of Jewish holidays beginning with new year celebrations. Mr. Peres spoke confidently of striking a deal, saying there are just a few issues left in the negotiations."

October because of a series

(Continued on page 7)

12.7mm.

Bosnian Serbs moved a few heavy weapons away from Sarajevo on Saturday, but not enough to satisfy the United Nations, which warned of new airstrikes if more guns

Under a deal secured after two weeks of North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) airstrikes, the Serbs agreed Thursday to pull back their heavy artillery from around the capital, winning a three-day reprieve from alliance bombs.

naissance planes, apparently taking infrared aerial photographs to monitor any weapons movement, droned But they did not seem to

have any significant movement to monitor. The United Nations said Saturday that the Serbs had moved only three tanks, five mortars and four artillery pieces by late morning from the 20kilometre weapons exclusion zone around Śarajevo.

"We remain sceptical about the Bosnian Serb commitment to honour to the full the undertaking they have made to remove weapons threatening Sarajevo," said U.N. spokesman Chris Gun-The movements we have seen are small scale, and much more is still to be achieved.'

Mr. Gunness said an assessment would be made Sunday night on "whether adequate progress has been achieved or whether airstrikes should be resumed."

The U.S. diplomat who brokered the heavy weapons agreement, Richard Holbrooke, said the United States would urge immediate resumption of NATO bombing if the Serbs did not fully comply with the artillery pull-OUT.

Mr. Holbrooke, an assistant secretary of state, was in the Serbian capital Belgrade with the regional powerbrok-

lery bigger than 100mm. Pre-

Expelled Palestinians risk death at border – UNHCR

CAIRO (Agencies) - The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has warned of the dangers to the lives of some 100 Palestinians camped on the Egypt-Libya border for over two weeks after being thrown out by Tripoli.

"The UNHCR should decide very soon to send emergency humanitarian aid to 32 Palestinian families risking death in no-man's land between Egypt and Libya," Panayotis Mumziz, a UNHCR foreign relations officer, told AFP.

"They sleep outside and during the day are exposed to the hot desert sun." said Mr. Mumtziz, who just visited the region near the Egyptian border post of Salloum to assess conditions.

"Over half these Palestinians are children who are suffering from lack of food and water and health ser-

"The health of a threemonth-old baby and a 15year-old girl deteriorated on Friday but a doctor called by Salloum officials saved them at the last minute." Mr.

to take any nationality to survive." Cairo refused entry to the

Palestinians, deported by Tripoli in early September, because they had no Israeli permit to enter the Gaza Strip after transiting Egypt. Another 5 Palestinians were also camped out be-

tween the borders after Libva refused to allow them reentry to continue their university studies. Mr. Mumtziz said. Salloum officials decided

on Friday to increase the humanitarian aid given to the stranded families, the Egyptian news agency MENA re-

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi launched a campaign to eject Palestinians in a bid to send a wave of refugees to the West Bank and Gaza Strip to show up the "failure" of the self-rule accord between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

But reports from the border say that mass expulsions of Palestinians have been halted since Thursday.

Meanwhile. Sudan has sent an evoy to Libya to arrange the return of thousands of Sudanese workers. Hundreds of Sudanese

have already crossed the border in recent weeks after making a grueling 2.750-kilometre journey from Libya, much of it through desert terrain. Sudanese officials say another 2 000 Sudanese families are waiting to return.

Sudan sent Tajudeen Al Hadi, a state minister for expatriate affairs, to Libya to help arrange their departure. the government newspaper. Al Sudan Al Hadith, reported Saturday.

It did not say when he left or how long he would stay. Sudanese officials told the newspaper that "groups of Sudanese returnees" were stranded inside Libya near the border. About 2,000 families have registered their names with the Sudanese embassy in Tripoli for a return trip, they said.

Libya began throwing out Egyptian and Sudanese workers in August, most of them because they lacked proper papers.

So far, thousands have left. including about 800' Sudanese. More than one million foreigners from African and Arab countries are believed working in Libya.

French court Hows sale of book on Belgian royals Solve F. Contin

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Grachev favours military ties with Israel MOSCOW (AFP) - Russian Defence Minister Pavel

Grachev said Friday that military cooperation with Israel would be beneficial to both countries. Interfax news agency reported. Israeli Prime Minister and Defence Minister

Yitzhak Rabin, who had talks with Mr. Grachev Thursday

during a one-day visit to Moscow, said at the time that

"cooperation in some military areas had not been ruled

out." According to Mr. Grachev, both countries wanted military-industrial cooperation, but talks to this effect could only be held "on the instructions of the two president or by government resolutions." Russian cooperation with Israel is either forbidden or restricted, Mr.

LONDON (Agencies) — Rival Iraqi Kurd factions meeting in Dublin failed to agree on implementing a peace accord because of differences over sharing customs revenues, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said here Saturday.

The PUK and its rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) met in the Irish capitla since Tuesday to try and implement a U.S. and Turkish-backed peace accord reached in August in the Irish town of Drogheda.
But PUK spokesman

Bahram Salah accused the KDP of reneging on the agreement which was due to be signed in Washington later this month by PUK leader Jalal Talabani and his KDP counterpart Massoud Barza-

The main sticking-point was sharing out customs levied by the KDP on Iraqi oil transported by truck to Turkey through Kurdish-held northern Iraq

The oil deliveries, which contravene a U.N. embargo in effect against Iraq since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, are the Kurds' main revenue, amounting to \$100,000-\$150,000 a day. They agreed last month on

sharing the revenue. But Mr. Salah said the KDP gave no commitment in Dublin to share "the money that has been taken for the last 18 months or so." The issue was "crucial" because 1,700 Iraqi Kurd families needed financial help.

'At a time when we are knocking at the doors of in-. ternational aid agencies and governments for help, it is a very sad irony that such re-sources would be denied to the very people that need it most," he said.

The KDP did not comment on the statements. But the two sides pledged

in Drogheda to abide by a ceasefire in a bid to end fighting in northern Iraq between the factions that has left more than 2,000 people dead since May 1994. desperately hope it will

hold," Mr. Salah said. "We raised the question at the (Dublin) meeting: How much time can we hold in a situation of half-peace, half-war." He was more upbeat on

another aspect of the Drogheda agreement: the demilitarisation of PUK-held Erbil, the main town in Iraqi Kurdistan. "Considerable progress" was made, he said. "PUK made a series of army helicopters.

Retired General Colin

Powell, a little-known fi-

gure during the Iran-contra

scandal, writes in his auto-

biography that he took a

dim view of proposals to

ship arms to Iran, and was

furious that an independent

counsel later questioned his

veracity about the matter.

Gen. Powell, who is con-

sidering a presidential bid

as he launches a book tour,

disputes the conclusion by

counsel Lawrence Walsh

that he was privy to "de-

tailed information" regard-

ing illegal U.S. arms ship-

"Dead wrong," Gen. Powell wrote in "My Amer-

Gen. Powell's chatty

memoir, released in book-

stores Friday, tells the story

of the son of Jamaican im-

ments to Iran in 1985.

ican Journey."

concessions by way of retaking out all its forces from the Erbil area," in response to KDP demands for the demilitarisation of the town seized by its rivals in December, the spokesman said.

Mr. Salah said no date was set for another meeting, at which the U.S. State Department, Turkey and the Iraqi National Congress opposition coalition have also been rep-

The KDP moved forces to mountainous area near Zakho in northern Iraq to flush out Turkish Kurdish rebels based there, the Turkish state-controlled Anatolian news agency said on Satur-

About 3,000 KDP guards in the early morning sur-rounded the area where some 600 rebels from the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) were believed based, the agency

KDP spokesman Safeen Dizavee in Ankara told Reuters he could not confirm the operation, but said there had been plans to search for PKK rebels in that area.

The PKK, fighting for autonomy or independence in southeast Turkey, started attacking KDP positions in northern Iraq last month just as the Iraqi Kurdish groups

began peace talks. Turkish Kurdish political analysts have suggested the PKK's attacks were spuried by fears any accord from the U.S.-sponsored talks in Dublin could force the closedown of PKK bases in northern

Analysts say the PKK wants to set itself up as a third force in the region and send a warning to the Iraqi Kurds that only an agreement that takes the PKK into consideration will be tolerated.

In Kulp, Turkey, security forces striking from land and air killed 51 PKK rebels in one of the biggest reported clashes in southeast Turkey this year, security officials said on Friday.

Four government troops were also killed, they said. Ground forces backed by Super Cobra helicopters firing rockets killed the PKK guerrillas in mountains in Kulp and a neighbouring district in fighting that began on Thursday, they said.

"We are still searching areas where the PKK might be," local gendarmerie commander Colonel Mecit Korkut told reporters taken to the battle zone in Turkish

military career led him to

Washington's power corri-

dors. He was a high-ranking

Pentagon official, White

House national security

adviser, and eventually the

nation's highest military

As military assistant to

Caspar Weinberger, then

defence secretary, Gen. Powell wrote that he knew

as early as June 1985 that

National Security Adviser

Robert McFarlane was

proposing such sales in a bid to reach out to moder-

ate Iranians in the volatile

He called the idea "auda-cious" and "foolhardy" and

said Mr. Weinberger held a

ments had actually been

made until sometime in

"I did not know the ship-

similar view.

official.



IRAQI PROTEST IN BELJING: Iraqi delegates to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women demonstrate inside the building of the conference demanding an end to the five-year-old international sanctions against their country. The protest came during the closing ceremony of the conference (AFP photo)

Euro-MP: No customs union with Turkey without reforms

ISTANBUL (R) — A member of the European Parliament assessing Tur-key's readiness for planned customs union said on Saturday Ankara needed to strengthen democracy and respect for human rights to ensure the deal is approved by the European Parlia-

Carlos Carnero Gonzalez, who had three days of meetings with political leaders and special interest groups, said the Euro-MPs were specifically concerned about limits on union rights, freedom of expression and the six pro-Kurdish MPs in jail.

"The customs union is not only an economic union and in this respect the European Union, when it enters into an agreement with a nation like Turkey, must stick to certain conditions." Mr. Carnero said at a news conference.

"The European Parliament wishes for the human rights situation to be improved and democracy should be improved," said Mr. Camero.

The European Parliament will vote on the lucrago into effect at the start of 1996 — in December, and Mr. Carnero said democratic reform would ensure a

Powell says he opposed Iran deal, blasts Walsh

Ronald Reagan signed a

majority of the 626 deputies would vote in favour

of the pact. The Euro-MPs wanted to see the deputies from the Democracy Party (DEP), closed by the court last year, released from prison. restrictions on freedom of expression and union rights eased and human rights violations addressed, he

Turkey's appeals court will hear the case on Sept. 21 against the deputies imprisoned last December largely on the basis of speeches they made in favour of broader Kurdish

Mr. Carnero added Ankara also needed to seriously address the Kurdish question - rebels and the army are locked in an 11-year battle in the mainly Kurdish southeast - human rights violations like torture and the Cyprus prob-

Turkey has insisted the rebel war can only be put down militarily, while some political analysts say the war is fuelled by restric-tions on Kurdish political and cultural identity.

Mr. Carne sympathy for the plight of Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, who has promised to ease restrictions on freedom of expression but faces opposition even within her

own party.
But he reiterated the European Parliament needed to see serious changes and signals and that the July amendments to Turkey's military-rule era constitution were not

"Without important changes in the fields I have mentioned... without a clear struggle against violations of human rights, without a new approach to the Kurdish and Cyprus prob-lems, it shall be difficult to have the necessary major-ity to say yes to the customs union," he said.

"The constitutional reforms of July are not enough, and much remains to be done in this area," he added. "There are still several elements in the Turkish constitution that limit freedom, notably concerning trade union rights.

Mr. Carnero has met with Turkish leaders, including President Suleyman Demirel and Prime oned Kurdish deputies and their lawyers, and is due to meet business leaders as

Cyprus division key theme for fesival

NICOSIA (AP) — Scores of children began painting a 50metre-long mural depicting the division of this East Mediterranean island Satur-

day as a European cultural month got underway.

The Greek Cypriot children worked only a few yards metres from the

with Greece

of the north.

The festival has been Turkish Cypriot state in the north, which is only recog-

"We revolt against the present division of Nicosia, against the current 'ethnic cleansing' solution which some have tried to establish here by force, cutting off by means of walls and barbed wire thousands of men and women who have lived together in harmony for centuries," said Miguel Angel Martinez, president of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe.

night. President Glafcos Clerides the Greek Cypriot leader, said the choice of Nicosia for the festival "is particularly significant... it makes us feel we're being embraced by Europe."

He added that the festival will stress the common cultural heritage of Cyprus and Europe, which are based on respect for human rights. Without the actual preva-

lence of these principles and values, our European civilisation and culture would be worthless," Mr. Clerides

barbed wire and fortifications of the U.N.-patrolled buffer zone that splits the capital into Greek and Turkish sec-

Nicosia and the rest of Cyprus have been divided since Turkey invaded and occupied the northern one-third of the island in July 1974 following a short-lived coup by supporters of union

The Greek Cypriots are using the cultural festival to highlight the political status of Nicosia as the world's last divided capital and the 21-year-old Turkish occupation

boycotted by the breakaway,

"One has to condemn those responsible for such a monstrosity, but above all we must act firmly to put an end to it," he declared at the opening ceremony Friday

Grachev said, adding that any military cooperation would "strongly depend on the Middle East situation." Man's head found on telephone pole

ASSIUT (R) — The severed head of a man killed by suspected Muslim militants has been found staked to a telephone pole at the entrance to a village in southern Egypt, security sources said on Saturday. Local residents told police that the head of Kasdi Fahmi Abu Halaqa — a suspected police informer — was fixed to the pole by a metal bar. Halaqa was gunned down in the village of Abshadat, 260 kilometres south of Cairo, on Thursday. One of the gummen cut off the head with a meat cleaver and it was found near the neighbouring village of Manshiet Al Maghalka, the sources said. Security sources said the gunmen were suspected members of the Gamaa Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), which has been fighting security forces in southern Egypt for over three years. More than 840 people have been killed in political violence in Egypt since the Gamaa launched its campaign to overthrow the government and set up a strict Islamic state.

Algerian activist reported murdered

ALGIERS (AFP) — Suspected Islamic radicals have ALGIERS (AFP) — Suspected Islamic radicals have assassinated a leading human rights activist, Abdul Hafid Megdoud, newspapers reported Saturday. The dailies Le Matin and La Tribune reported that Megdoud, a trade union leader and member of the executive committee of the Algerian Human Rights League (LADDH), was shot and killed Wednesday as he was driving with his wife and children in the Algiers suburb of Baraki. Megdoud had already escaped two assassination attempts by suspected radicals fighting to topple the secular, military-backed regime in Algiers. The newspapers said he was buried on regime in Algiers. The newspapers said he was buried on Friday. The newspapers published a statement by the LADDH condemning the "vile murder" of Megdoud.

Moroccans approve constitutional change

RABAT (R) - Moroccans voted almost unanimously in favour of a constitutional amendment to change the date on which the budget is passed, the government said on Saturday. The Ministry of Interior said 99.6 per cent of the 8.2 million Moroccans — about 70 per cent of registered voters — who voted on Friday had approved the change. The amendment will allow parliament to vote on the budget in June rather than in October. King Hassan said when he called the referending in August that this month when he called the referendum in August that this would permit the government to take account of the annual harvest in May and make more realistic forecasts. Budget forecasts for 1995 were thrown off by a disastrous cereals harvest caused by severe drought.

PFLP-GC arms dump explodes in Shatilla

Palestinian group's ammuni- east Lebanon. tion depot in a Beirut refugee
camp during the night, and 12, including PFLP-GC police reported Saturday.

It was the latest in a series of explosions at bases operated by the Syrian-backed Popular front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in recent weeks.

Police said they could not determine what started the blaze in the group's arms depot in the Shatilla refugee camp at 11:45 p.m. (2045 GMT) Friday.

The depot was believed to have contained hundreds of mortar rounds and antiaircraft missiles, police said in a statement. It said five of the casualties

were treated at a camp clinic for minor burns. Two others were hospitalised. It was not clear whether the casualties were guerrillas

or civilians. PFLP spokesmen declined

comment on the explosions. But a guard at the depot said the fire started when a gas cylinder exploded.

Police officials said they could not say whether the fire was an accident or possible sabotage similar to recent mishaps at PFLP-GC bases in other parts of Lebanon.

The latest was an Aug. 31 explosion at the group's main

BEIRUT (AP) — A fire set training camp in the Syrian-off a series of explosions in a controlled Bekaa Valley in

son Jihad, were wounded in the blast, which was reportedly caused when a bomb the men were handling detonated.

Two weeks earlier, three guerrillas were reported killed in an explosion at another popular front base.

The PFLP-GC opposes the 1993 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) selfrule accord. The group is allied with the Iranianbacked Shiite Muslim Hizbollah, or Party of God, in a guerrilla war against the Israelis in South Lebanon where they occupy a border

PFLP-GC bases in Lebanon, which is dominated by Syria, have been a frequent target of Israeli air attacks since 1987.

Friday's explosion in Shati-In came on the anniversary of the 1982 camps' massacre in Lebanon. It occurred near a cemet-

ery for victims of the camps' Saturday marked the 13th

anniversary of the massacre by Christian militiamen of hundreds of civilians in the Sabra and Shatila camps during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

21:25 Cairo (MS) 01:05 Beirut, London (BA)

02:35 Amsterdam (KL) 04:00 Athens (OA)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600 400 Banana 680 620 Cabbage 1307 (0)

Currot 349/350 Cauliflower 200/150

Cucumbers (large) [20 / 80 Cucumbers (small) 230 / 150

Egeplani 250/ 150
Figs 300/250
Garlic 700/50

JORDAN TELEVISION

	PROGRAMME TWO
-	14:00 The Flintstones
- 1	14:30 Joshua Jones
	14:30 Joshua Jones 14:45 The Mighty Jungle
	15:00 Pugwall Summer
	15:30
	Football match - UEFA Cham-
- 1	pions League 1995/1996
	17:00
	Children's Programme - Les
i	Mondes Engloutes
	17:30 Serie — L'Instit
	19:00 F11 News in French.
1	19:15 Ushala
	19:30 News Headlines
- 1	19:35 Cinema. Cinema
	20:00 Nunc
	20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful
- 1	21:15 Startbhlair
	22:00 News in English
	22:25 Drama - Counterstrike
	23:10 Return to Eden (Ep.II)
	00-30 Reeping Up Appearances
	. comming the findeer was

PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624591. Church of the Annunciation Tel De la Salle Church Tel. 661757 Terrasancta Church Tel: 622 166 Church of the Annunciation Tel.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel 771331. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Church of Nazarene Tel 675691. The Evangelical Local Church in

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-ment of Meteorology.

Min Max temp.

1986," after President

Anglican Church Tel. 63851, Tel. 628543.

Amman International Church Tel. Evangelical Latheran Church Tel: 824328. German-speaking Evangelical Cungregation Tel. 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 684932

WEATHER

Mild weather conditions will precall with temperatures below aver-age and winds northwesterly moderate to active, In Aquha, winds will be northerly active and seas

..... 17 29

secret order making the transfer retroactively legal, Gen. Powell wrote. He said he then arranged for the transfer of anti-tank missiles to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), which sent them to Iran. Mr. Walsh did not take

any action against Gen. Powell, and his role has never been a major focus of media attention. But the Iran-contra issue,

along with other aspects of Gen. Powell's long military and government career, is likely to come under increase scrutiny if the retired Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman gets into the presidential race.

In previously released book excerpts and interviews, Gen. Powell said he is considering a presidential bid, is dissatisfied with both political parties and be-

lieves the country may be ready for a third major political party. But he has not said whether he would affiliate with a party if he does run. He wrote that he rebuf-

fed President Bill Clinton's offer to be secretary of state because of reservations about "the amorphous way the administration handled foreign policy."

In the book, Gen. Powell expresses pride at having been the first black person to achieve some of those milestones, and said that when Mr. Reagan selected him as national security adviser, "I also felt along with the pride a certain burden to prove myself as the first African-American

to hold the position." And he wished two Republican presidents he served. Mr. Reagan and George Bush, had "shown

more sensitivity" on race relations. An ad used by the 1988

Bush campaign that focused on Willie Horton, a black Massachusetts inmate who raped a white woman while on a prison furlough, "was a political cheap shot," Gen. Powell said. "Was the ad depicting

the incident racist? Of course. Had it bothered me? Certainly."

Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush themselves betrayed not "the slightest trace of racial prejudice in their be-haviour, "Gen. Powell wrote. "They led a party, however, whose principal message to black Americans seemed to be: Lift yourself by your bootstraps. All did not have bootstraps; some did not have boots. I wish that Reagan and Bush had shown more sensitivity on this point."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

	·
Augha 22 35	ZAROA:
Aqaba	Dr. Fahd Jaher 984549
Jordan Valley 24 / 36	Khalifeh pharmacy 985417
Academ , Mile	Mannen pharmacy 40417
Yesterday's high temperatures:	EMERGENCIES
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readings: Amman 30 per cent.	Civil Defence Department 661111
Aqaba 21 per cent.	Civil Defence Immediate
	Rescue
MACHIE	Civil Defence Emergency 199
USEFUL	Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
TELEPHONE	Fire Brigade
	Blood Bank 77512!
NUMBERS	Highway Police 843402
	Traffic Police
NIGHT DUTY	Public Security Department 680321
	Hotel Complaints 605800
AMMAN:	Price Complaints 661176
Dr. Munther Al Orani 884286	Water and Saverage
Dr. Khalil Abu Marjoub 779797	Complaint 907167
Dr. Khalil Al Tusluy 757253	America Musicipalita
Dr. Mohammad Al Shobaki	Complaints
77722	Complaints 787111
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Al Salam pharmacy 63(73)	Abdali Telephone Repairs 661[0]
Yacoub pharmacy	Jordan Television 773111
Shareisani pharmacy 037660	Radio Jordan 774][]
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HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32 Hussein Medicar Comes Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 6442816 ZARQA: Zarqa National I lospital Zarqa Nuttonal Hospital (19)980560 Ibn Sina Hospital (19)986732 Al Hikma Medern Hospital (19)990400 The Arab Centre for Heart and Special

Queen Alia Intl. Airport (88-53200)

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642/81/6 Jabal Amman Maternity ... 642/62 Malhas, J. Amman 630/40 Palestine, Shmeisani 664/71/4 Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646 Italian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101.3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/20 Zarqa Govt, Hospital (09)983323

Princes Haya Hospital (03)314111

Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555 Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 01:15. Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)247100

FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT 'ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

(Terminal 1) 05:30 Bangkok (RJ) 08:45 Aqaba (RJ) 09:15 Dhahran (RJ)Lamaca (R1) 09:55 Riyadh (RJ) 01:01

12:30 .. Paris (RJ) 19:15 . . Athens (RJ) New York, Amsterdam (RJ) Frankfurt (RJ) Madrid, Geneva (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2) 11:30 Sanaa (IY) 13:40 Bahrain, Shariqah (GF)

14:30 F11 Moscow (GF) 16:15 Rome, Damascus (AZ) 20:35 Caire (MS) 21:10 Beirut (ME) 22:20 London Beirut (BA) 23:20 Islanbul (TK4) 23:30 Albert (OA) 23:30 Athens (OA)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1) 06:30 Aqaha (RJ) 06:40 Beirui (RJ) 09:36 Frankfurt (RJ)

Tankiuri (KJ)
11:30 Vienna, Munich (RJ)
12:10 Tunis, Casublanca (RJ)
12:15 Rome (RJ)
12:15 Ankara, Istanbul (RI)
12-30
Athens, Casablanea (add) (RJ)
13:25 Athens (RJ)
14:30 Amsterdam, New York (Rit-
21:20 Cairo (R1)
21:29 Jeddah (RI)
31-35 JCOUIN (KI)
21:25 New Delhi (RJ)
21:25 Damascus (R1)
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22:25 Bangkot (P 1)
22:25 Aqaha (RJ)
23:45 Sanaa (RJ)
Sanau (RJ)
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)	Water Melon	120 / 70
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SEPTEMBER 17, 1997

rted murdered Islamic radicals has its activist. Abdul Hat saturday The dades b that Megdoud, a trai-evecutive committee or (1 ADDH), was an driving with his wife at Baraki Megdoud k attempts by suspect secular, nuhtary bade in said he was bunedy ed a statement by E murder" of Meedone

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i m an capiosion at 2025. guitar from bose the blit bereighter. 43 Tyrac Palestine Lix an Organisation (PLOIS) to account the goal hed with the fring acked Share Muslim Ho h. or Part of God. percently was against t rachs in South Lete here they occupy a let PRINCE BASE IN LE an white the commission ma, have been a new per of Israeli an mis-Friction is employed in St.

to 1-20 a contain a massign If occurred near 1 de s for victims of the all Saturday marked the P micrael of the master . Christian administra materia of civilians in b abra and Shatila compair g the fractions and the change

MARKET PRICES

DARAT AL FUNUN **EXHIBITIONS**

dents in the South Gallery.

Photography of Jordan, Elements in Harmony' by Hala Hilmi Hodeib at the Blue

Painted stone and steel, 'Embargo Art' by Iraqi artist Nuha Al Radi at the Garden of the Blue House.

road accidents claim 3 lives

Drowning accidents kill 3 youths,

By Rana Hosseini killed in a drowning inci-Special to the Jordan Times dents, according to police

AMMAN — Three youths All three bodies were were killed Friday in three retrieved by CDD frogmen separate drowning incidents in the King Abdullah and the and were taken to Mua'z Bin Jabal, Abu Obeidah and the Ghor canals, police and Jordan Valley hospitals. Civil Defence Department South (CDD) reports said.

In the first incident a 7-

year-old child drowned

while swimming in King

Abdullah Canal in the Al

According to the reports,

eyewitnesses said that they

saw the victim. Mohammad

Akram Saghir, waving for

drowned in a similar swim-

ming incident in the same

canal on Friday. Official

reports identified the victim

In the Jordan Valley on

Friday, a 12-year-old child,

Ahmad Mustafa, was also

A13-year-old

as Adli Faleh Odeh.

Yabis Valley, reports said.

Shouneh police are searching for a hit-and-run driver who on Friday struck and killed a pedestrian, police reports said.

We do not have a description of the car or any witnesses but we hope to find the suspect soon," a police official told the Jordan Times.

He added that the only evidence was grey paint found on the victim's clothing. According to the police

official, the victim, Amin Ahmad, 27, went into a coma and died an hour after arriving to the hospital. Also on Friday, a 7-year-

old child was killed after being run over by a vehicle in Yadoudeh, near Oueen Alia International Airport Highway, police reports

The victim, Mustafa, was the fourth child to die in a road accident in the Kingdom last

In Irbid on Friday, one person was killed and five more were injured in a road collision, an official report said. According to the report, the accident which took place on the Amman-Irbid highway involved a public

The driver of the car, Ahmad Abdul Ruhman, 45, was killed instantly. Five of the bus passengers

bus and a private car.

were injured and were taken to Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid. They were discharged the same day, the



Participants attend the opening of the "Pension 2000" investments group meeting being hosted in Amman. Organised by heads of pension funds in the U.S. and the Amman Financial Market, the meeting is one of other such periodic seminars held by Pension 2000 in countries which, to the U.S. group, show a high potential for investments and which enjoy a business environment that ecourages local as well as foreign investments

First Swiss cultural week to include Oscar-winning film, photography

embassy, in cooperation with Pro Helvetia Arts Council of Switzerland, will hold a Swiss cultural week at the Royal Cultural Centre

from Sept. 19 to 24. On the programme are seven Swiss feature films and five documentaries. One of the films is the 1991 Oscar-winner for best foreign film directed by Xavier Kopller, "Journey of Hope," which recounts a true story of the illegal immigration of a Turkish

AMMAN (J.T) — For the couple and their young son first time in Jordan the Swiss from southeast Turkey to Switzerland.

The cultural week seeks to introduce the latest Swiss cinematographic productions of the nineties to audiences in Jordan, and all films are subtitled in Arabic. Exhibitions on display during that week include one entitled "Swiss Photographers from 1840 Until Today," which features 300 black and white shots taken

by 117 photographers from around the world. These photographs "are a

the last 150 years in Enrope," said Swiss Ambassador G. F. Pedottti.

"Face to Face with Switzerland," another exhibition, seeks to illustrate Swiss images, a people's way of life in state and society, through life-size photographs of Swiss citizens, rural and-urban, young and

On the lighter side, Dimitri, a famons Swiss clown, will communicate beyond cultural boundaries through the art of pantomime.

WHAT'S GOING ON A SECTION

CONCERT

Public performance by American Opera inger Anita Wakim (accompanied by National Music Conservatory pianist Mohammad Othman Sidiq) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

SEMINAR

""Child's Excellence: Is it Inherited or Acquired?" (in Arabic) with the participation of Margo Malajanian and Samar Doudin at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman, at 6:30 p.m.

FILM "Dave," at the American Center at 5:00

SUMMER '95 ACTIVITIES

Graphic work by several artists and stu-

* 'Early Morning Scribbles' by Lebanese artist Amin Al Bacha and Jordanian artist Rajwa Bint Ali and 'Late Night Scribbles' by Amin Al Bacha and Joranian artist Ali Bermamet.

* Open Air Sculpture workshop.

Ceramic shop at the Lower Garden.

* Works by contemporary Arab artists at the

* 3-D experiments in calligraphy by Usama Khalidi at Library.

EXHIBITIONS

* "Beneath the Waves," photographs on Aqaba underwater life by Julia Reinholt at The Gallery, Hotel InterContinental.

* Works by artist Ghazi 'Ayasrah at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.

* Paintings by Palestinian artist Samira Badran at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman.

* Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Detours on Amman roads likely during MENA summit, says Abbadi

AMMAN (Petra) - The Greater Amman Municipality is busy planning how to facilitate the movement through Amman of hundreds of participants in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will be opened Oct. 29, Amman Mayor Mamdouh Abbadi said Saturday.

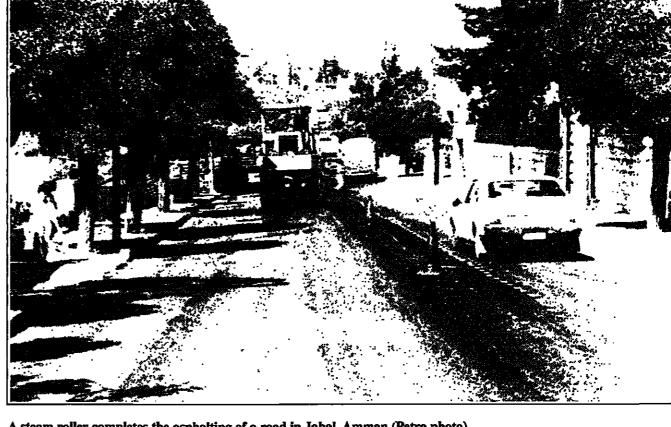
In an interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abbadi said the municipality will also begin cleaning up the city's streets, painting curbs and hanging banners welcoming partici-pants to the three-day international summit

Describing the summit as the biggest gathering of international figures and representatives of foreign governments ever hosted by Jordan, he said changes in traffic routes and detours would more than likely be required during the summit .

He announced that the municipality will stage several cultural activities and organise tours to archaeological attractions for the conferees.

The mayor praised tree nursery who recently announced their donation of agricultural material worth JD 50,000 to the municipality to help spruce up the city, saying their initiative was a reflection of cooperation and interaction between the municipality and the various sectors of the society.

Dr. Abbadi urged private sector institutions to follow the lead of nursery owners in serving their city by belping



A steam roller completes the asphalting of a road in Jabal Amman (Petra photo)

the municipality improving public services.

He said the current street repairs and asphalting are part of the municipality's routine work paid out of its annual budget.

He said work was currently under way in asphalting streets in Marka, Quweismeh, Shafa Badran and Tla Al Ali.

The mayor added that the municipality was also opening a 2.5-kilometre road in Ein Ghazal, in northeast Amman, to provide substitute roads for motorists and reduce traffic congestion.

He said the municipality started using its own machinery to asphalt roads, but that development does not mean that the municipality has begun to compete with the private sector. He said the private will always have its major role in munic-

ipal works. The objective, he

stressed, is to keep munici-

pality in proper working order at all times.

Mayor leaves for

Vienna Dr. Abbadi later Saturday left for Vienna on a sevenday visit to Austria at the invitation of the Governor of Vienna.

The mayor, who is leading a several-member delegation from the municipality, said he will hold talks with Austrian officials to discuss enhancing cooperation between the municipalities of Amman and Vienna and to benefit from the Austrian capital's expertise in the field of electronic surveillance of roads and central

control of traffic lights.

During his stay in Vienna, Dr. Abbadi will also participate in a conference on means of exploiting waste

Report cites continuing assaults on holy places by Israel

Beitounya.

AMMAN (Petra) - The Palestinian Affairs Department monthly report, released Saturday, Israeli occupation authorities last month carried out repeated assaults against boly places in the Palestinian occupied territories, and continued their confiscation of Arab lands and the opening of roads for Israeli settlements.

The department said the Israeli authorities also continued to conduct mass and administrative arrests and demolish Arab-owned houses in violation of basic human rights.

The report also said Israeli authorities closed the old city of Jerusalem and Al Aqsa Mosque following repeated attempts by Israeli settlers to break into the holy shrine and confrontations at the site between Jewish extremist groups and Palestinians defending the mosque.

The report said an Israeli ministerial committee on Jerusalem affairs decided to close three Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem — the radio and television corporation, the Statistics Centre and a health centre — under the pretext that the three establishments violate Israeli laws by being linked to the Palestine National Authority

These decisions, the report stated, conspicuously contravene the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration of Principles and Israeli official pledges on the status of Palestinian institutions operating in Jerusalem.

This means the Israeli authorities are determined to prejudice the status of Jerusalem ahead of negotiating the future of the city with the Palestinians and ignoring Palestinian rights in the city on the one hand and international legitimacy resolutions on the city on the other, the report said.

It said the attacks against religious sites were not exclusive to Al Aqsa Mosque, but included several others by Jewish extremists on places of worship elsewhere in Jerusalem and attempts to close Palestinian institutions in the city.

The report said the Israeli authorities confiscated large tracks of land in the areas of Deir Abu Daeef, Arrana, Jalama, Ramallah, Bireh and The occupation authorities

also continued their settlement activities and continued to block main roads intermittently in all parts of the territories, the report The department cited an

Israeli newspaper report as saying the Israeli Public Works Department was preparing to open four roads in the West Bank, one to surround Tulkarem, another around Jenin and two to girdle Ramallah.

The report went on to say that settlers were rampaging through the West Bank. shattering the windshields of cars owned by Arab citizens. In addition, it said, Israeli army units broke into several mosques and confiscated Islamic books and religious

tapes and extended the clo-

sure of the premises of the Palestine Scholars League for another six-month peri-Furthermore, assaults targetting Arab shops, hospitals, health clinics and mosques continued in the

occupied territories throughout August, the report said. It said assaults on Arabowned lands included the plowing down of crops or spraying them with damaging chemicals. The report said Israeli

police conducted mass arrests of Arab labourers and issued prison terms and heavy financial fines, in addition to detaining Arab labourers under various pretexts for several days. It said Israeli authorities

recently renewed the adminsitrative detention of Palestinians who were in ill health despite numerous calls by many human rights organisations for their immediate and unconditional release. The report appealed to all

local and international human rights organisations to intervene to bring to an end to such administrative detentions which constitute a violation of human rights. The Palestinian Affairs

Department also criticised long prison terms issued by Israeli courts against Palestinians, and the summary trials of Palestinian labourers arrested inside Israel without permits.

In addition, the report said conditions in Israeli jails, were bad, and detainees face health problems.

First mobile telephone services company starts issuing 'subscriber identity modules'

Bý Beatrix Immenkamp Special to the Jordan Times

Amman — Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (JMTS), the privately owned shareholding company providing cellular telephone services to Jordan, Saturday began to distribute to the public Subsriber Identity Modules, or SIM cards, required for the activation of cellular phones.

"Subscribers who purchased their SIM cards today will be able to use their mobile telephones within a week," Nisreen Husary of JMTS told the Jordan Times.

"The same rule will apply to all subscribers; they will be able to use their mobile phones a week from the day of purchase of the SIM card," she added.

JMTS, also known as Fastlink, is expecting 200 to 500 customers a day during the distribution phase, which will last until Oct. 8.

Ten thousand potential customers registered with the company for SIM cards, paying a deposit of JD 100 each. Upon purchse of the SIM cards, customers have to pay an additional deposit of JD 150 for acces to international lines, a JD 70 onetime connection fee and a JD 21 fee for the first month.

Customers say they value the additional freedom of movement which they acquire with their mobile telephones.

operator whose company subscribed to six cellular lines, told the Jordan Times that his mobile phone will allow him to do several jobs simultaneously while remaining constantly avail-

He stressed that it would also allow him to offer better service to his customers, because he will be able to stay in much better contact with tour guides.

"A tour guide can tell me that he is on his way to the hotel, so we can have everything ready for the tourists upon arrival. In tourism, providing good service is considered very important,"

A factory owner, Awni M. Sayej, who also owns a second business, will now be able to divide his time more effectively between east and west Amman, where his two businesses are located.

Both businessmen said they were certain that despite high operating costs, cellular phones will prove cost effective, their most important feature being that they will save their owners time. And time is money,

A third customer, who prefered anonymity, deplored the high cost of cellular telephones available in Jordan in comparison to international prices.

On sale in the JMTS registration room at the Amman Crown Hotel were a range of Motorala mobile telephones. ranging in price between JD 650 and JD 850.

"Cellular telephones are subject to a 20% tax", Ms. Husary explained when asked about the high price of the telephones.

Customers who travel abroad are at an advantage, since they can purchase a handset outside Jordan and use it with their SIM card here.

Visitors to the JMTS registration room interviewed by the Jordan Times agreed that the government should improve telecommunication services in the country and not rely on the private sector to provide services which are only available to a small

section of the population. A JMTS representative admitted that cellular telephone services "are helping to cover a shortfall in (conventional) landlines," provided by Jordan's Telecom-

munications Corporation.

Italian firms to construct 71-km road to Aqaba

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Public Works and Housing Saturday awarded a JD 32.3 million dollar contract to two Italian firms to build a 71kilometre stretch of road between Ras Al Naqab and Agaba.

The ministry's secretary general. Bashir Jaghbeer, who signed the contract with the

Italian consortium, said the new four-lane road will extend from kilometre 14 to the village of Mureighahnear kilometre 85 along the Desert Highway.

entails constructing four bridges and a pedestrian under-

The project has been divided into two parts: a 43-kilometre

He said the project also

stretch to cost JD 17.7 million. of which 70 per cent will be financed by a loan from the World Bank and the rest by the state treasury; and a 28-kilometre stretch that will cost JD 14.6 million, half of which will be financed by a loan from the European Investment Bank and the rest from the Jordanian trea-

TENDER'S NOTICE

The General Directorate of Supply / Ministry of Education announces the re-tendering of the following tenders as a part of the Sector Educational Project No. (3106-JO), (JO-P8),

•	, ,, -,-		
Tender's No.	Title	Fees	Financed through
13/94 (C)	Educational Video Cass.	JD (25)	(JD-P8)
9/95	Fumiture	JD (10)	(3106-JÓ)
10/95	Office Equipment	JD (25)	(3106-JO)

interested bidders are invited to collect tender's documents from Procurement Division of the General Directorate of Supply / Ministry of Education, starting September 11, 1995 against the payment of the

Closing date will be 11.00 a.m. of October 25, 1995.

Head of Special **Tenders Committee**

Marilyn knew her

old school ties. memoir reveals LONDON (AP) — Marilyn

Monroe's most convincing

role-playing may have been that of dumb blonde, a

memoir published Saturday

revealed. Colin Clarke, a

writer and member of a well-heeled British family

— one brother is a retired

defence minister and anoth-

er is the doyen of art histori-

ans - published his diaries

as a young gofer on the set

of a 1956 Monroe film. First

impressions of Monroe on

the London set of The Prince And The Showgirl

were not good, wrote the 25-year-old Clarke, fresh out of Oxford and Eton, in

excerpts from the diaries

published in the Daily Mail

newspaper. Monroe con-

stantly arrived late on the

set and forgot her line;

frustrating her co-star Laurence Olivier. Worse, she

necked with her just-mar-

ried husband, playwright
Arthur Miller, during the
screening of the daily rushes
- something Clarke
described as "very unBritish." Clarke's revelation

came when he walked into

Monroe's dressing room

without knocking - and he

encountered her wearing

only a towel on her head."All I could see were

beautiful white and pink

curves," he wrote that day.

"I just stood there and stared

and stammered. M.M. gave

me her most innocent smile.

'Oh, Colin,' she said, 'and you an old Etonian'. "How

did she stay so cool? And

how did she know which

school I had gone to and

what it meant? ... I realised

that behind the fog, M.M.

could be a bit brighter than

we all think. Acting dumb is

Chechenya accuses Russia of attacks

MOSCOW (R) - Chechen rebels accused Russia Saturday of carrying out rocket attacks on Chechen villages in violation of a ceasefire

Movladi Udugov, information minister in the breakaway forces of Chechen Dzhokhar President Dudayev, told Reuters by telephone that Russian helicopters fired rockets at vilp lages in the Shali and Sha-.. turi districts for 90 minutes Saturday.

No confirmation was available from the Russian side. "We have no such information," said a Defence Ministry spokesman in Moscow.

On Wednesday General Anatoly Romanov, Russia's commander Chechenya, said 8,000 Interior Ministry troops had been withdrawn under a military agreement that also calls for rebels to disarm.

Mr. Udugov linked Saturday's attack to the absence Gen. Romanov in Moscow for consultations. This is a violation of the ceasefire agreement. Russia is continuing military operations. Our observers saw the anacks." Mr. Udugov said.

Russia has accused the Chechen side of failing to implement its side of the military agreement by handing over the bulk of its

The two sides agreed Wednesday that the rebels should hand all their heavy weapons in by Sept. 20. TASS said only 1,250 guns had been handed in so far while 50,000 to 80,000 firearms were still at large.

The Chechens say the presence of Russian troops in the region makes many fighters reluctant to give up their weapons.

Russia sent troops to Chechenya last December to end the region's now fouryear-old drive for independence from Russia. Thousands have been killed in fighting and many more have fled their homes.

Sporadic clashes have continued despite the July ceasefire although heavy fighting is now rare.

Meanwhile the Chechen commander whose raid on a Russian town left over 100 people dead in June warned the need arises." of a "sea of innocent people's blood" if Russia does-

n't stop its war in

Chechenya, a report said

Shamil Basayev declared

to a Chechen newspaper that

he will not halt his fight until

all Russian troops leave and

there is "a free, independent

Boris Yeltsin with his

against a whole nation, no

Omega, Alpha or Vympel

(crack Russian military)

units will help to save that

country from retribution,"

Mr. Basayev was speaking

in a Chechen mountain area

in a recent interview with

Groznensky Rabochy, the

Interfax News Agency said.

The newspaper went on sale

in the Chechen capital

A front-page photograph showed the 30-year-old guerrilla leader standing in

his military fatigues with a

portrait of Mr. Dudayev in

the background. He said be

meets with Mr. Dudayev "as

Grozny Friday.

he was quoted as saying.

"If Russia, its President

not stop

genocide

Chechenya."

entourage do

unprecedented

"as long as just one Russian soldier is on (Chechen) soil, peace and calm will be incomplete," Mr. Basayev said. "For two centuries of relentless struggle for freedom and independence, the Chechens have earned full

sovereignty. Russian troops, who entered the Caucasus Mountains region last December to crush its separatist claims, control most of Chechenya but remain the target of sporadic attacks.

A July 30 military pact that called for prisoner exchanges, Chechen disarmament and partial Russian withdrawal has broken

Mr. Basayev referred to his June terrorist attack in the southern Russian town of Budyonnovsk as a "raid of despair ... For the sake of stopping the slaughter in

Chechenya."
He said he had never intended to carry out the raid anywhere but Budyonnovsk, contradicting earlier reports which had him planning to go all the way north to

Rescue workers look for survivors at the site of the Malaysian Airlines plane crash in the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah. The crash killed 34 people (AFP photo)

Missing passenger from Malaysian plane crash walks into hospital

TAWAU, Malaysia (R) — A survivor from Malaysia's worst air crash in nearly two decades walked into a hospital Saturday, completing the plane disaster count of 34 people killed and 19 survivors.

The last survivor, Haroni Ladai is 34 years old and is a local resident. He was dazed and walked home yesterday after surviving," said Chua Soon Boi, member of parliament from Tawan in the north Borneo state of Sabah.

"He was not feeling too well this morning so he came into the hospital and then reported to the authorities," she said. Mr. Haroni was unavailable for com-

The Malaysian Airline System (MAS) Fokker 50 aircraft carrying 49 passengers and a crew of four crashed into a squatter colony after overshooting the Tawau runway Friday afternoon. It was on a scheduled flight from Sabah's.

capital, Kota Kinabalu. Some of the survivors were seriously injured but were not in critical condi-tion, a local hospital doctor said. The crash had also injured nine people from the squatter colony and two of them were in a serious con-

dition, he said. Rescue officials said the 34 people killed were documents and run for our

pilot and co-pilot. Among the survivors who escaped through emergency doors were three foreigners, two Singaporeans and one Indonesian, officials said.

Mr. Chua said identifying many of those killed had been difficult because they were burned beyond recognition in the fire after the

Other officials said MAS has flown in dental forensic experts to belp with identifi-

cation. Some of the victims' relatives claiming remains were more fortunate. "We are lucky. At least we were able to identify the body easily." said a grieving P. Murugan, whose 26-year-old sister-inlaw, Vijaylakshmi, an employee of international

toy company Mattel, died in the crash. She was on a business trip to Tawau.

Mr. Murugan said he was taking the body back to Kuala Lumpur later Satur-

At the site, the twin-propeller Fokker's starboard engine was the only recognisable part of the aircraft.

There were three consecutive explosions immediately after a loud crash. When we ran out we could only see fire, which was spreading very fast. All we could do was pick up our important Malaysians, including the lives," said Luman Sampe, 40, who lives in the squatter

The fire took rescuers two hours to extinguish, stopping it just before Mr. Sampe's wooden house. Most houses in the colony are wooden and built on

Many other residents were not so lucky. A third of squatter colony was devastated by the crash and the

The blaze destroyed 45 houses, leaving Malaysian and eight foreign (Indonesian and Filipino) families homeless, a Welfare Department official said. He did not have the exact population of the area.

"But the residents didn't appear too unhappy," one observer in Tawau said. They said if it burnt down I'll just build it again next week," he said.

MAS could not explain why the crash occurred and was not prepared to discuss compensation to victims.

"We are taking it one stage at a time. Right now we are busy helping the relatives of the victims," MAS Chairman Tajudin Ramli told reporters between talking to relatives departing from Kuala Lumpur on a special MAS flight early Saturday morning.

a good way to make other people make fools of them-selves." Lottery winner A rescues ticket

from washing

machine LONDON (AP) — It all came out in the wash. A nightclub bouncer checking his jeans pockets before tossing them into the washing machine uncovered a 10-day-old lottery ticker Press Association, Britain's domestic news service reported. Rob Campbell gave the ticket to his common-law wife to check at their local lottery outlet Wednesfield, a town in ceptral England. Caroline Emery learned that the ticket had won the Sept. 2 jackpot: the couple and their two-children were £1.4 million (\$2,240,000) richer. "I never keep track of my numbers," said Mr. Campbell, 29. The first thing he was going to do was quit his job, he said. And his first spending priority? "I suppose I can get someone else to do my washing from now on." the National Lottery said that 10 days was the longest anyone had waited

Bob Hope fires 4 butler for not shaving

before cashing in a jackpot

since the lottery's inception.

LOS ANGELES (R) - Bob Hope's former butler filed a wrongful termination suit against the legendary come; dian Friday, saying he was fired for refusing to shave off his beard. In a suit filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Jeffery Branum stat; ed that Hope and his wife hired him in December 1993 after seeing a photo: graph of him with a neatly groomed beard and informing him that his appearance was acceptable. Mr. Branum said he reached an agreement to work for the Hopes for five years at an annual salary of \$50,000. But be alleged that about two weeks after he was hired the Hopes told him they had an "unwritten law" that 10 employee was allowed to wear facial hair and he would have to shave if he wanted to keep his job. Mu Branum, who had 10 year experience as a butler, said he refused and was "wrongfully terminated" the same day. Hope's publicist, Ward Grant, said the Hopes were not aware of the civil lawsuit and would have no comment until they had read

Hurricane Marilyn batters Virgin Islands, moves on Puerto Rico

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (R) — Hurricane Marilyn battered the U.S. Virgin Islands with high winds and heavy rains Friday, causing severe damage before moving on to take aim at eastern Puerto Rico.

Winds of up to 127 mph (204 kph) destroyed trailer parks and blew the roofs off many houses in St. Croix. witnesses and forecasters

"There was a lot of damage done to the island," said Brian Maher, a forecaster at the National Weather Service in Miami. He said radio reports received from St. Croix indicated several areas had suffered "severe

Marilyn, the third major storm to batter the Caribbean in less than a month, was a category two hurricane with sustained winds of 105 mph (168 kph), the U.S. National Hurricane Centre said. It could strengthen to a category three storm, with winds of 111 to 130 mph (179 to 209 kph) by early Saturday, it

Island residents huddled in shelters all day awaiting the arrival of Marilyn. St. Thomas, in the U.S. Virgin Islands north of St. Croix, experienced winds close to 100 mph (161kph) that brought 10 inches (25 cm) of

St. Thomas lost electrical power at midday and stores sold out of batteries, ice and other supplies. It was under a curfew starting at 3 p.m. edt (1900 GMT) with everyone but emergency workers forbidden to leave their homes, officials said.

Government offices, businesses and schools in the Virgin Islands were closed, and boats were in hurricane holes and sheltered harbours as residents prepared for the

"We're not taking any chances. We're advising residents to take this storm very seriously," said Donovan Gentles, a coordinator for the Office of Disaster Preparedness in the British Virgin Islands.

Storm-weary residents of Puerto Rico, still recovering from a brush with hurricane Luis 10 days ago, prepared frantically Friday as Marilyn

At 11 p.m. edt (0300 GMT) the eye of the hurricane was just east of Puerto Rico and moving northwest at eight to 10 mph (13-16 kpm), a path that was expected to continue over the next 24 hours, forecast-

Puerto Rican supermarkets, their shelves still depleted from a rush to buy goods for Luis, were so crowded that many stores added security guards to keep shoppers in line. Streets were jammed as residents scrambled to buy candles, water and other sup-

Banks, schools and government offices were closed all day or shut down early Friday. Puerto Rican Governor Pedro Rossello activated the island's emergency plan and declared a state of emergency as of 6 p.m. edt (2200 GMT). San Juan's interna-

tional airport closed at mid-

day.

Marilyn claimed its first life, at least indirectly, in Puerto Rico Friday when a 17-year-old was electrocuted as he removed an antenna from the roof of his home near San Juan.

Forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre said the compact storm - hurricaneforce winds extended just 30 miles (48 kilometres) from its centre — could fluctuate in intensity over the next 24

- A previous storm, hurricane Iris, had threatened the eastern Caribbean at the end of August, but it caused little damage as it brushed through as a tropical storm.

But 10 days ago, one of the most powerful storms of the century, hurricane Luis, roared through the eastern Caribbean. With deadly 140 mph (225 kph) winds, Luis smashed Antigua, Barbuda, Anguilla and St. Martin, killing at least 16 people.

Emergency officials said everyone was weary from the repeated preparations, but relieved that most residents seemed to be getting ready nonetheless. "The fact that we just went

through Luis helped, defi-nitely," Mr. Gentles said. "Many places were battened down already. People had a stronger sense of the need to be prepared."

In Fajardo, a low-lying town on the northeast coast of Puerto Rico, pickup trucks cruised through the streets with loudspeakers urging people to abandon their homes and seek shelter.

> Agency's offices.

Typhoon Oscar threatening Japan

TOKYO (R) - One of Japan's strongest typhoons since the war roared north Saturday, threatening to batter the Tokyo region with high winds and whip up 10metre waves, the Meteorological Agency said.

Typhoon Oscar, gusting up to 180 kph (110 mph) at its centre, was 900 km (550 miles) south-southwest of Tokyo at 3,00 p.M. (0600 GMT) Saturday, and heading for the capital at 20 km (13 miles) per hour.

It would hit or be near Tokyo about 9 a.M. (2400 GMT) Sunday, the agency

Seas were building Saturday afternoon, and some ferry services to southern islands had already been cancelled, the agency said. The pressure at the

typhoon's centre was 925 hectopascals, as low as the strongest typhoons to hit Japan since the war. However, the agency's forecasters said that because of Japan's topography and the relatively cool sea temperature it was likely to ease off to 940 hectopascals, before reaching the Japanese coast. The forecasters said it might veer east and not hit direct-

"If it follows the westernmost course it will hit the coast directly," said Toshihiko Sobajima, a forecaster at the Meteorological information

"But it won't necessarily do this there would still be strong winds, but it would-n't be as bad," he said.

WASHINGTON (AFP) —

Poll: Powell would beat Clinton

WASHINGTON (R) — Retired General Colin Powell would easily beat President Bill Clinton in a two-way election held now if he ran as a Republican, a poll showed.

It also said be would narrowly win a three-way race if he ran as an independent and Senate majority leader Bob Dole were the Republican candidate, the Time magazine/CNN poll said.

The poll, taken amid a hurricane of publicity surrounding a tour by the former Gulf War general to promote his memoirs, showed that as the Republican presidential nominee. he would beat Clinton 46 to 38 per cent in an election beld today.

The remainder were unsure or said they wouldп't vote. In a three-way race, Gen.

Powell as an independent would eke out a victory by 33 per cent against Mr. Clinton's 30 per cent and Sen. Dole's 24 per cent statistically a first-place tie since the margin is within the poll's margin of error.

The poll taken Wednesday and Thursday among 1,000 people had a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points. An earlier June poll by

the same group asking opinions of a race between Mr. Clinton and Gen. Powell as a Republican had Gen. Powell winning 44 to 41 per cent. In a three-way-

independent it had Mr. Clinton winning 33 per cent, Gen. Powell getting 29 per cent and Sen. Dole 27 per cent. Gen. Powell, who rose

race with Gen. Powell as an

from a New York City ghetto to become the first black to serve as the top U.S. military officer, said he will announce his intentions to run or not run in November.

In a CBS television interview Friday, Gen. Powell said that running as a Republican offers him the best chance to win the 1996 presidential race but added he would not rule out an independent candidacy.

Simpson prosecution witness casts doubt on defence theory

LOS ANGELES (R) — As prosecutors in the O.J. Simpson trial neared the end of their rebuttal, an FBI expert Friday cast doubt on the defence theory that two assailants committed the murders the former football star is charged with.

William Bodziak, the FBI's top specialist on shoe print evidence, contradicted earlier testimony by a defence scientist that mysterious imprints found at the crime scene could be the bloody shoe prints of a second killer.

Testifying as the prosecution's final witness in the weeklong rebuttal phase of Simpson's trial, Mr. Bodziak said the marks that Dr. Henry Lee, one of the nation's pre-eminent forensics experts, previously referred to were actually defects in the concrete walkway where the murders took place.

Under questioning by chief prosecutor Marcia Clark, Mr. Bodziak also criticised Mr. Lee for basing his observations on his examination of photographs taken of other photographs.

Mr. Bodziak's testimony came as the prosecution prepared to rest its pared-down rebuttal case, a phase in which the government is given a chance to counter testimony presented during the defence case.

The defence refused to rest its case last week while it appealed an unfavourable court ruling, and in an extremely rare move, Judge Lance Ito ordered prosecutors to begin calling rebuttal witnesses to keep the trial on

The defence wants to end its case next week with a bang, pitting a FBI scientist against one of his colleagues in an effort to show misconduct in the investigation. As jurors have grown

increasingly restless and surly after more than eight months of sequestration, both sides are speeding up their presentations. The last two witnesses challenged defence claims that several people - Simpson not among them --- carried out the slayings of the defendant's ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman, on June 12, 1994 outside her

Prosecutors have maintained from the beginning that Simpson acted alone, slashing the two victims to death on a narrow, shrublined walkway.

In lengthy testimony for the defence, Mr. Lee had backed the defence' "second killer" theory, pointing to parallel lines found on Goldman's jeans and on pieces of paper at the murder scene along with unexplained marks on the walkway.

But Mr. Bodziak said the only bloody shoe prints at the crime scene were made by a pair of size-12 Bruno Magli shoes such as those prosecutors say Simpson wore the night of the slayings. "There are no other shoe impressions I examined or saw," Mr. Bodziak said after reviewing a series of photographs.

Next week the defence team hopes to call FBI scientist Frederic Whitehurst, a witness they hope will help undermine the credibility of all the FBI crime laboratory analysts who have testified so far.

President Bill Clinton, wad-Washington. ing deep into the high-stakes budget battle with the Republican-held Congress. has threatened to veto conservative plans to cut spending on health care for the elderly. Mr. Clinton, calling for a compromise, said plans to

trim \$270 billion from the popular Medicare health programme that serves nearly 40 million U.S. residents goes too far. "This is not what it takes to save Medicare," he said.

"if these health care cuts come to my desk, of this size, I would have no choice but to veto it." Republicans in the House of Representatives unveiled their proposal Thursday to

revamp Medicare, the federal health insurance programme used by elderly and disabled Americans. Senate Republicans were working on a similar plan. The plan got a positive

review from Texas billion-

aire Ross Perot, the unsuc-

cessful presidential candi-

date who has argued for fiscal restraint and reform in

"It takes a lot of courage to touch this alligator," said Mr. Perot, who got 19 per cent of the vote as an independent candidate in 1992. If you were just being a politician, you would not touch this thing."

Republicans say the federal health care system will go bankrupt if they do not reform it now, and blame Democrats for pandering to the fears of the elderly, who vote in overwhelming num-

They won majorities in both houses of Congress last November for the first time in four decades, on promises of balancing the federal budget in seven years by cutting spending — most in social programmes that Democrats hold dear.

Democrats, including Mr. Clinton, charge that Republicans aim to cut Medicare at triple the rate necessary in order to stabilise spending to finance a tax cut for the wealthy.

Dick Gephardt, a Missouri representative and leader of the House Democrats, said his party would fight to ensure that "the health of the elderly (will) not be battered away for a fistful of supply-

side silver."

U.S. battle escalates over health care spending

Both sides generally agree that the stakes are high for both parties. House Speaker Newt Gin-

grich told a television inter-

viewer early Friday that the

Medicare reform issue could boost or break Republican momentum in Congress. He called the proposed cutbacks "a very responsible, very serious effort to preserve and protect the Medicare system" but con-

ceded that a tough sales job lies ahead. "It's so emotional that unless we are very careful and very educational and very straightforward, literally, I think, you could see the whole support for what we're trying to do crumble."

Mr. Gingrich said. Meanwhile, the stakes escalate with every passing day as the end of the fiscal year approaches, which is by custom the time for approving changes such as the proposed restructuring Medicare and welfare.

Democrats are especially enraged that Republicans unveiled their Medicare proposal so late in the process, allowing only a few days before pushing the plan out compromise-making committees.

"Right now, quite frankly, we're operating off a press release that they (Republicans) issued yesterday," the White House said Friday. "The devil is in the detail when it comes to these kind of proposals. And we do not have a bill that has been presented to the Republicans yet," he said.

The House proposal would double premiums over seven years, phase out some subsidies for affluent Americans. give participants options for medical coverage, and automatically cut payments to health care providers who fail to meet savings targets.

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creating dozen of angular improvement Monte file is the London set in a trace And the in 3 were not cond, in a Sychold Clark, out of Oxford season can of theory and the excepts from the published in the Dak newsterly, Monto dunity arrived late Set and forgot have Thousands of Dhaka residents jam buses at the Sayedabad terminal as they leave the Bangladeshi capital ahead of the tence Officer Was Pastionwide general strike (AFP photo) necked with her her Bombs injure 6 in Bangladesh nationwide strike Arthur Miller, dur orteening of the dath Pik. DHAKA (R) — Bombs of the thing ithed a packed with metal fragments wounded at least six people Finish Clarke and counded at least six poor came when he wast tim the Bangladesh capital

Monroe shows the control of the banging as a 72-hour Wonroe's dressing relational strike gripped the without knocking romanonal suite garger encountered her country, witnesses said.

"One bomb exploded in be at the same of city's crowded Nawabour head "All I could a licity's crowned and the composition beautiful white ag Times should be to resign and allow early von an old Forca did she saw so we how did she know school I had goner

y: One bomb exploded in the

activists paraded the streets,

three-stage cabinet reshuffle

as controversy mounted Sat-

urday over an order to arrest

a politically powerful Hindu

In distributing the portfo-

lios, Mr. Rao shifted a half-

dozen ministers to lesser

posts and injected fresh

blood into his four-year-old

government in what was

widely seen as a move to

gear up for general elections

But the reshuffle was

clouded by the order issued

by a demoted minister to

airest guru Chandraswamy,

who wields influence in the

The composition of the

revamped government was

announced late Friday. It

came four days after five

ministers triggered the

reshuffle by resigning and

two days after the names,

The Hindu newspaper said

WASHINGTON (AFP)

Less than a year after Con-

gress vowed to stand up for

freedom in Europe by taking

former East Bloc countries

into NATO, lawmakers are

showing a new reluctance to

broaden U.S. security oblig-

As ambassadors of the

North Atlantic Treaty

Organisation NATO in Brus-

Wednesday the results of a major study on NATO enlargement, Congress

eillargement, Congress has adopted a wait-and-see atti-

tide that marks a striking contrast to its earlier enthusiasm for expansion

There has been a little bit work and the backing away a little bit

weeks all half the bota backing away on NATO

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Control of the state of a state of the state of a state of the state o

According to the final part of NATO.

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Tank and the days we

prime minister must quit domestic and international the her most mineral A blast shook areas near flights were cancelled or office at least 90 days before the National Sports Control delayed. the polls, Mrs. Hasina said. In the capital, Dhaka, The Dhaka Exchange and the Foreignexplosions of home-made Board but no one was hurt, police said. Exchange Market were bombs, mostly firecracker-Sporadic explosions' were types but a few packed with The strike was called by metal fragments, heralded reported from what it means a Bangladeshi cities, includthe beginning of the stopmain opposition parties in that behind the ing the port of Chittagong as their latest effort to force page, police said. could be a but back of the strike, which began at 6 Prime Minister Begum Police said nearly 150 peowe all think halm a.m. (0000 GMT), brought Khaleda Zia to step down. ple were injured in clashes a country of 110 million to They want her to allow between opposition activists provide orally tooks a virtual standstill. and supporters of the ruling early elections, not due before next March, super-Rain sweeping through Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) outside Dhaka much of the country reinvised by a neutral caretaker administration headed by forced the stoppage, driving Nearly 30 policemen were the few people who ventured the chief justice to ensure Rao finishes cabinet reshuffle NEW DELHI (R) — Indian! Chandraswamy's "colossal clout in the capital is Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao completed a matched only by the mystery

about his sources of power".

Some senior politicians con-

sult him before making deci-

The bearded holy man, nicknamed the "Flying Yogi" and the "jet-setting

tantric", includes the sultan

of Brunei and actress Eliza-

beth Taylor among his

friends, according to the

The Indian Express news-

paper called him "an opera-

tor with enormous and extra-

constitutional clout in the

higher echelons of power

The order to arrest Chan-

draswamy was issued by

Rajesh Pilot, who was shift-

ed from the Home Ministry

to the Environment and

Forests Ministry in an appar-

the eve of the reshuffle,

prompting speculation he

down-grading by focusing

attention on the guru and his

planks in the "Contract With

America" political mani-

festo, arguing that after decades of Communist dom-

ination, the United States

should ensure that the for-

mer Soviet-ruled countries

are firmly anchored in the

But lingering questions

about the plan including

cost, and uncertainty over

the fate of the military

alliance as it tackles Bosnia,

have brought a sobering note

to the debate over whether

the Czech Republic, Hun-

gary, Poland and Slovakia

should be admitted to

One example illustrating

the new mood in Congress

came last month when

Republican Senator Hank

Brown from Colorado was

forced to withdraw a mea-

sure that would have autho-

rised funds to help countries

of the former Warsaw Pact

amendement to the NATO

participation act — was to

be taken up by the powerful

Appropriation Committees

who oversee spending for

accede to NATO. -

The measure —

NATO.

political connections.

Times of India.

and public life".

ent demotion.

out back into their homes,

officials and witnesses said.

Opposition pickets, how-

They said buses and trains

were stranded as pickets

erected barricades on high-

ways and railway tracks.

Some ferries operated but

officials

with few passengers.

ever, marched on the streets

braving the rain, they said.

"Since Mr Pilot's demand became known at a time when the prime minister was contemplating changing portfolios of his ministerial colleagues, his move could be construed as an effort to ward off any change in his portfolio," the Hindu said.

free and fair voting.

Ms. Khaleda, elected in

1991 in what were billed as

the country's first free polls,

has rejected the demands,

but she offered to resign 30

days before the 1996 elec-

Her opponents, including

Sheikh Hasina of the Awami

League, turned down the

offer as inadequate. The

Mr. Pilot said the arrest order was in line with Mr. Rao's instructions to have a clean and accountable government.

But newspapers said Mr. Pilot had opened a potential can of worms in the event an investigation revealed embarrassing links between Chandraswamy and politicians in Mr. Rao's Congress

The Hindustan Times said "the proximity of the godman, apparent or real, to the centres of power, including the prime minister, has been bandy grist to many a rumour mill".

Mr. Pilot gave the order on Chandraswamy is part of the tantric tradition, whose was trying to stave off a adherents believe their gurus have attained supernatural powers by worshipping Kali, the Hindu goddess of

The new Republican-con-

trolled Congress, bowing to

pressure from Polish-Ameri-

can and other ethnic lobby

groups, accused the admin-

istration earlier this year of

dragging its feet on NATO

The administration of

President Bill Clinton last

year began moving towards

enlargement and called on

the 16-member alliance to

determine the "how" and

'why" of broadening NATO

as a first step towards expan-

But reassuring Russia has

been a major sticking point

in efforts to widen the secu-

rity alliance amid growing

fears that expansion could

anger Moscow and unneces-

sarily create tension between

the two former cold war

"The Russians are very

mercurial right now, and

what's going on in Bosnia

has created less enthusiasm

in people's minds," a Demo-

cratic congressional staffer

said, referring to the NATO

air campaign launched two

weeks ago against Bosnian

rivals.

expansion.

U.S. enthusiasm over fast NATO expansion dies down

police and local officials Three people were treated in a hospital in Jessore after

also hurt during clashes in

the towns of Chandpur, Jes-

sore, Barisal and Bhoia.

they were hit by bullets and bomb shrapnel, local reporters said.

Authorities have deployed nearly 5,000 riot police and paramilitary troops to tighten security in Dhaka, a city of nine million.

Streets were virtually empty except for few rickshaws on roads usually reserved for automobiles.

Troops were seen guarding the residence of Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, and the main government secretariat in the heart of the city, witnesse's said.

Schools and most offices were shut but top officials and some ministers slept in their offices overnight, police told reporters.

Newspapers reported that Mr. Pilot ordered Chandraswamy's arrest after Om Prakash Shrivastava. charged with murder and recently extradited from Singapore, made allegations against Chandraswamy under interrogation.

But the gurn remained free and spoke to several newspapers.

Chandraswamy said he would file a case in Delhi High Court against Mr. Pilot. "I am going to court," the Asian Age quoted Chandraswamy as saying. "The order is mala fide. It is misuse of power."

In the reshuffle, Mr. Rao clipped the wings of several older ministers who had crossed swords with him.

He stopped short of dismissing anyone but placed up-and-coming junior ministers in several key posts to marginalise the controversial cabinet ministers, govemment officials said.

Democratic Senator Sam

Nunn, an authoritative voice

on security issues, dealt a

major blow to the adminis-

tration in June when he

called for a more cautious

approach to NATO enlarge-

NATO expansion could

jeopardise the pursuit of

more important foreign poli-

cy goals, including develop-

ing a stable relationship

"with the most important

country in the world in terms

of potential for proliferation

of weapons of mass destruc-

tion," Sen. Nunn said in a

"This is the stuff that self-

fulfilling prophecies, and

historic tragedies, are made

Experts predicted Con-

gress will not be called upon

to vote on admitting new members to NATO before

A two-thirds majority is

required in the Senate to rat-

ify any changes to the 1949

North Atlantic Treaty, which

obliges the United States to

come to the defence of any

of its NATO allies.

speech.

of," he warned.

Civilians hit in Sri Lanka shelling

COLOMBO (R) — Civilians were scurrying for cover on Sri Lanka's northem Jaffna peninsula Saturday and at least two were killed when Tamil rebels engaged government troops in a heavy shelling duel, military sources and residents said.

There were conflicting reports from the eastern sector after Friday's guerrilla attack on a military post where the army said seven of its personnel were killed and nine were missing. The rebels said the nine were also killed.

Heavy shelling by the army from the strategic northern Palaly Air Base continued for the fourth day as troops tried to clear the area of rebel mortar posts, residents said.

Troops, moving ahead with their operation Handshake-2, fired shells at Puthur, Achchuveli, Ooralu Urumpirai, residents

The Tigers retaliated with firing from the Puthur area. Two civilians were killed and eight more injured in the crossfire in the operation involving more than 3,000 troops, residents said.

Human-rights groups, concerned about the safety of the residents in the Jaffina battle zone, have asked the government to advise it about measures to ensure the civilians' safety.

spokesman Defence Brigadier Sarath Muneshinghe said the operation aimed at securing the Palaly base against mortar attacks was continuing Saturday.

Rebel sources in the eastem Batticaloa administrative district said guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) blew up two power transformers. leaving most parts of the 16th century port city without electricity.

The military denied the claim, but conceded the LTTE's claim it had blown up the railway line linking Batticaloa with Colombo.

Defence analysts said the attacks appeared to be part of the Tigers' campaign to prevent the eastern garrisons from joining a huge army offensive on Jaffna expected before the monsoons arrive in October.

The army says it suffered a temporary setback Wednesday when an air force plane carrying soldiers to Palaly

crashed in the sea off Colombo, killing all 75 people on board. The air force says a court.

of inquiry was looking into possible sabotage but on Friday an air force spokesman said bad weather appeared to be the most-likely cause of the crash of the Antonov-32 bought from Ukraine in July.

The government has banned all domestic flights following the crash but the air force said the issues were not linked.

Military sources said the ban stemmed from recent intelligence reports the Tigers planned to hire or hijack a civilian aircraft to bomb the parliament.

The Tigers have been fighting since 1983 for an independent homeland for minority Tamils in the north and east. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the war.

Meanwhile police said Saturday they had found more washed-up debris from the wreckage of the Sri Lankan plane

Fragments of aluminium, slippers, shoes, torn travelling bags as well as body parts were found on the beach near Marawila, about 50 kilometres north of the crash site Friday, police said.

"This is believed to be from the air force plane which crashed on Wednes-

day," a police source said. The source added that a small body part had been identified through a birth mark as the aircraft's navigator, Jason Martenstyn. who was in his early twen-

The air force has said it will have to seek international assistance to salvage the wreckage which is believed to have gone down in 1,000 metres of water but no formal government move had yet been made.

Air force sources also corrected earlier reports that captain of the aircraft, Squadron Leader Ravi Pakiyanathan, 33, was to take over the command of the aircraft for the first time Wednesday. He had captained the aircraft at least twice before, they said.

Police have questioned three policemen who loaded crates of cigarettes, the only cargo taken aboard the plane, amid suspicion that a bomb may have been hidden inside the packages.

Pope arrives on first visit to S.Africa

JOHANNESBURG (R) -Pope John Paul arrived in Johannesburg Saturday on his first visit to postapartheid South Africa.

The Pope's Cameroon Airlines Boeing 747 landed at Johannesburg International Airport shortly after 4 p.m. (1400GMT) from the Cameroon capital Yaounde on the second leg of a threenation tour, his 11th visit to Africa since he became leader of the Roman Catholic Church in 1978.

The Pontiff was greeted by South African President Nelson Mandela, Deputy Foreign Minister Aziz Pahad, provincial Premier Tokyo Sexwale and cardinals, archbishops and bishops from around southern Africa.

The Pope landed in Johannesburg six years ago almost to the day when bad weather forced his plane down on a flight to the mountain kingdom of Lesotho, which is surrounded by South Africa.

He travelled by road the 350 Kilometres south to the Lesotho capital Maseru. reluctant to acknowledge South Africa's apartheid rulers.

The arrival in South Africa today of Pope John Paul II is a timely reminder of just how far South Africa has come since the bleak days when it was an outcast," Johannesburg's Saturday Star newspaper said in

"His presence here, while vastly significant to his followers, should give all South Africans cause to celebrate," it said.

an editorial.

President Mandela's spokesman **Parks** Mankahlana said the visit was a vote of confidence in the political changes in the country.

The highlights of the southern Africa visit will be a mass at the Gosforth Park race course in Germiston on Johannesburg's eastern outskirts.

Organisers are anticipating up to 400,000 people way over the 150,000 who went to Pretoria for Mr. Mandela's inauguration last year and probably the biggest gathering the country has ever seen. Between eight and 10 per cent of the country's 40 million people are Catholics.

Mr. Mandela is likely to attend the mass. -Later Sunday, the Pope will preside at Johannes-

burg's Cathedral of Christ the King over the closing of the synod of African bishops, which opened in Rome in April to map the needs and concerns of the contimillion nent's . 123 Catholics.

Mandela announces process for apartheid truth commission

PRETORIA (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela Saturday set in motion the process for appointing a truth commission which will probe human rights abuses and atrocities in South Africa during the 45 years of apartheid.

Mr. Mandela, speaking at a ceremony where he received an honorary law degree from the University of South Africa, announced the names of a panel which will select nominations for the

The "Truth and Reconciliation" Commission will have wide-ranging powers to grant indemnity from prosecution to members of the previous regime's security forces in return for full diclosure of the crimes they committed in defence of apartheid.

Because Mr. Mandela's coalition government wants the process to be even-handed, guerillas of his African National Congress and other liberation armies who were involved in arrocities will also have to appear before the commission.

Another of the commission's functions will be to grant restitution to the victims of the conflict who were tortured, maimed or abused as well as the families of those killed.

Thousands of people are estimated to have died during white-rule in covert operations carried out by the security forces, or in bomb blasts and attacks by antiapartheid guerillas.

The commission will be in place by the end of 1995, Mr. Mandela said. Chairing the eight-mem-

ber panel announced by Mr. Mandela is the president's law advisor Nicholas Haysom. Other members include

Baleka Kgositsile, an ANC member of parliament and Ray Radue, a senator of the conservative National Party which ran the country until last year's historic all-race elections.

The head of the Methodist Church in South Africa, Bishop Peter Storey will also serve on the panel, along with representatives of the legal profession.

The public will be invited to submit nominations for the commission and the panel will draw up a short list from which Mr. Mandela will select the commission-"Though the president was

given powers to appoint the commissioners, we consider it crucial that that process should be as open and as legitimate as we want the final product to be.

"We are confident that through this process, we will emerge with a commission made up of individuals of moral integrity who are committed to buman rights, reconciliation and disclosure of the truth," Mr. Mandela said.

Despite assurances that the commission will be impartial, the extra-parliamentary white right has described the plan as a "witch-hunt" and compared it to the post-World War II Nuremberg Trials.

Mangosuthu Buthelezi's Zulu-nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party, senior members of which have been implicated in para-military activities and the murders of ANC supporters, is also sceptial of the commission.

Inkatha abstained in a vote in parliament earlier this national unity and reconciliation bill providing for the commission, was passed.

More than 1,000 academics and diplomats attended the graduation ceremony Saturday when the University of South Africa (UNISA) conferred an honorary doctorate in law on Mr. Man-

Mr. Mandela completed a bachelor degree in law through UNIŠA during his 27 years in prison.

UNISA is the largest educational facility running external degree courses in Africa with 130,000 stu-

Mexicans set aside economic worries to celebrate independence

MEXICO CITY (AP) — With mariachi music, fireworks and cries of "Viva Mexico" Mexicans set aside their worries about the country's economic crisis for a few hours to celebrate their country's independence.

During the most important patriotic celebration of the year, President Ernesto Zedillo stood on the balcony of the National Palace late Friday to issue the "grito,"

the traditional reenactment of the first cry of independence 185 years ago.

"Long live our independence" Mr. Zedillo shouted to tens of thousands of people crowded into the capital's main plaza, the Zocalo. celebrated by wearing flop-

As in years past, Mexicans py, wide-brimmed hats, scattering multi-coloured confetti and tossing flour into the eyes of unsuspect-

Earlier in the day, festivities were interrupted by a series of protests by garbage collectors and laid-off bus drivers who complained that there was nothing to cele-

brate. "We want our jobs back" several hundred unemployed drivers shouted Friday afternoon during a rally outside Mexico's Stock

Astronauts step out for a cold spacewalk

CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — Two astronauts bundled up and floated out of shuttle Endeavour Saturday for a spacewalk aimed at getting them as cold as possible.

James Voss and Michael Gernhardt wore new heated gloves during their excursion in the freezing vacuum of space - minus 57 degrees Celsius (minus 135 degrees Fahrenheit) at times. They also tested thermal mittens. thermal socks, boot inserts and redesigned long under-

NASA is experimenting with gear to keep spacewalking astronauts warm when they start building the international space station near the end of the decade.

Construction and maintenance will require hundreds of hours of spacewalks. Gernhardt said he considers Saturday's spacewalk a "midterm exam" for NASA.

"We're going to be evaluating, essentially, most of the building blocks that will make up the space station assembly and maintenance tasks," Gernhardt said during a space-to-earth news conference Friday. "It's really going to let us quantify where we're at, where we need to go."

The last time shuttle astronauts took a spacewalk, in February, their fingers froze and they had to hurry back inside.

Saturday's spacewalk 340 kilometres (212 miles) to last six hours. It started a little late because of a problem with the communication system on Voss' suit. The plan called for Voss and Gernhardt to test 17 tools designed for space sta-

above Earth was supposed

tion use. Tasks included twisting and untwisting fasteners and connectors, and removing and reinstalling an aluminum shield similar to what will cover the international space station to protect against tiny meteorites. Neither Voss nor Gernhardt had performed a

spacewalk before. Gernhardt figured his underwater experience would help. He was a professional deep-sea diver before joining NASA.



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Jordan Times

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Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation, University Road, P.O. Bex 6716, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 607161 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO Facsimile: 696183

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For Iraqis, as always

IT IS indeed troubling for us to hear the "case" for tightening the economic noose around Iraq by closing Jordan's borders with its eastern neighbour. Troubling because the issues at stake are not simply the kind of black and white pieces that some are trying to put together but whose plecing could affect the very fabric and history of Jordan and the principles that the Kingdom has followed for decades.

As His Majesty King Hussein said yesterday, Jordan never entertained and will not entertain the thought of closing its borders with Iraq since the Kingdom and its people care for the people of Iraq and are sincerely seeking to alleviate their suffering. No amount of pressure from any source will force Jordan to deviate from its principled stand towards its. Arab brethren in their hour of need.

Suggestions that Jordan has changed its policy are necessarily coming out not of a vacuum but from vested interests of some. The King's affirmation, which he has repeated several times since Aug. 8 defection of Hussein Kamel to Jordan, should be a clear message to all those who are trying to fish in murky waters.

Yielding to international pressure that was slowly turning to be a de facto blockade on Jordan itself, we accepted an effective supervision of all goods destined to Iraq passing through Jordanian territory. The acceptance came despite, the lopsidedness of the arrangement, clearly visible when we take into account the massive smuggling of goods into Iraq through other countries neighbouring Iraq. Having accepted the arrangement and having proved to the outside world that no contraband goods are entering Iraq through Jordan or that the Kingdom is a conduit for Iraqi products being smuggled out, there is no case against Jordan as far as the international sanctions are concerned.

Only U.N.-approved goods are being allowed to enter Iraq through Jordan and Jordanian exporters must obtain special U.N. Security Council permission to ship local products.

Quite simply, Jordan has in place a strict regime of control that is effective as can be on all trade to Iraq through this country. As for food and medicine, the U.N. itself has exempted them from the sanctions. We cannot therefore deprive Iraqi people of medicine or food or accept to be instrumental in starving our Arab neighbours or denying them medicine.

Jordan's case is strongest when it makes a distinction between Iraq and its people on one hand and its regime on the other. We cannot accept the destruction of Iraq and its people for the sake of changing a regime in Baghdad. The current political structure in Iraq is temporary when viewed in a historical context. Iraq and its people are permanent in historical dimensions. We must keep in focus this distinction when we articulate or adopt policies on our eastern neighbour, and our friends and allies must show more sensitivity to Jordan's dilemma in this vein. Jordan has been and still is the heartland of Arabism and cannot be expected to betray its long-standing ideals and aspirations for some transient considerations.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Saturday attacked the Libyan leadership for expelling Palestinians from Libya where they contributed to the construction of that country over the past decades. Tareq Masarweh said that the expulsion was tantamount to the policy of "transfer" adopted and implemented by Israel to evict the Palestinians from their homeland and settle them in the desert. By expelling the Palestinians for no reason, Muammar Qadhafi is following in the footsteps of those Arab leaders who brag about their support for the Palestinian cause but in deed find the slightest pretext to persecute the Palestinian people, said the writer. Citing the example of the Shiite militias attacks on Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon, the writer said that Libya is committing a similar crime and finding the excuse of opposing the Calestine Liberation Organisation's policies to carry out its plot.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour criticised the United Nations Refugee and Works Agency (UNRWA) for its decision to close the educational sciences college and sacking its dean, saying that the move was in contradiction with the agency's own objectives of providing ocial and educational and health services to

Palestinian refugees. While the agency continues to make excuses for its gradual reduction of these services, it continues to employ an army of foreigners whose combined salaries d other fringe benefits far exceed the allocations for the refugees themselves, and Mohammad Kawash.

Women and China — magic of Beijing '95

By Salwa El Taber

TEASING ME in his typically adolescent manner. my son asked: "Could it be 'divine justice' that situated the women's conference in Beijing?" After all, wasn't it originally meant as an expiation for the Tiananmen Square shootings"? I cursed the day I put TIME and NEWSWEEK on his desk, but the fact remained that the news were far from reassuring: A week before our departure for China, our visas were not yet ready; we had been confined by the Chinese government to Huairou, an area 47 kilometres, away from Beijing and lacking the most basic facilities. Things seemed to be getting out of hand: the forum had grown so fast and so large that 40,000 women prepared to march down together from all four corners of the world carrying their multifarious agendas to the small village hidden from view.

As it turned out, our worst fears materialised. Was it the fact that we were unprepared and unoriented, or were we simply guilty of overambition and idealism? The fact is that, as soon as I landed in the great republic I remembered Rex Harrison (in My Fair Lady) singing the glories of women: Suspicious, exacting, interfering and overbearing; disagreeable and disagreeing? Wilful, belligerent, trivial, insensitive... in his own words: A

damn nuisance.

Of course, sexism had not yet become a household word then, and Pygmalion could get away with any avalanche of attributes. But, landing in the great republic, I suddenly wondered: did the world somethow weave a "Beijing connection"?

Cultural shock? I had always thought social scientists coined the expression for the sole purpose of annoying us. But, landing in this huge constricting maze where men and women in uniform tried to strip us of papers they had sent us themselves, where everyone constantly kept having to go to his superior," where our movements were so closely watched I sometimes wondered if m shower was bugged, I very humbly pleaded ignorance.

Having started to travel very young, I had always considered the whole world my domain. Everywhere was home. But I realise now how limited my "world" had been: Europe and America; the West, with whom we had had centuries of love/hate relationships, and constant contact and exchange, even in conflict.

The great republic was a

different matter. We had not watched its films avidly for years, we did not know its tunes by heart. Here, all clues seemed to vanish, all means of communications seemed to break down. Finally coming across the sign: "Post office-bank" did not necessarily mean there any activity going on in the room; using carbon paper to work through 30 slips of papers did not guarantee any copies underneath. Huairou's "business cen-tres" neither knew nor cared about the difference between English and the Morse-code. "Internation-al," rescue words like "doctor," "police," "res-taurant," "toilet"... rang absolutely no bell with the populace. One Chinese went as far as telling me: "I know "taxi" in Chinese, but I don't know it in English.' Then there is the neverending paper work and the sacrosanct nature or every slip. Trying to get a cash refund from a hostel, I was told that one of six papers handed to me upon arrival (4 a.m. in the morning after a two-day plane trip) was missing. Trying to keep my cool — a rather difficult exercise when you're tired, misunderstood and in hurry, I tried to rescue my money by saying: "You know me personally; you possess all the necessary information; can't you act?"

I leave it up to the reader to decide whether this man, who was working a 16-hour shift, made any sense of my proclamation. But take this as a truism: lose a particular paper in China, and you might end up sleeping on the pavement.

As for sign language, please forget it. It does not come in handy. And I mean any sign language. The Chinese will not play char-

ade with your or strain to try and understand you. They will most often close up, shut you out, sometime waving you away with their hand, and retreat in their well-guarded shell. Now that I have some hindsight (as well as more food in my stomach and more sense in my head), I am sorry it took me so long to realise that this "curtain down" policy did not spring out of hostility, but rather out of a great sense of helplessness, and a deep-rooted fear of the unfamiliar.

For, once a Chinese de-

cides to like you better, to trust you, he will go out of his way for you. The country has a way of slowly but surely growing on you. The local production has quality and style, at very affordable prices. Your person and your belongings are safe at any time, anywhere. Where else in the world can you ride a taxi alone on a highway at 10 p.m. without fear, without having to call a taxi office, a mini-cab or at least have the registration number recorded? Where else do you get immediately reimbursed if you overpay? Where else do they open their ribbon-closed restaurant at night and start cooking all over again espe-cially for you? Where else are people so civilised that if you happen to lose your temper, they never answer you back? They might fume under their breath. I had no way of checking that, but not once did I get a resentful or disrespectful look or grunt from a Chinese. And, if they ever happen to argue amongst themselves, their tones remain measured, state-controlled, for sure, but most especially, self-

controlled. And so it was that the change started to happen, in us, in them. The most baffling entity we had ever come across was beginning to take shape and form. What had struck us first as infuriating; frustrating. stifling and overwhelming (Rex Harrison, here I come!) started to look regimented, of course, but with peeping laxity; closed, expressionless faces began to smile more readily; and, beyond the rigidity that met us, seeped the unparalleled grace that only they knew how to exhibit.

As for the forum itself, there were great discrepancies between workshops, both in content and in management. The Americans as a whole were the most organised, but the most selfcentred. The South-East Asians, the most aware, creative and effective, the Africans the most helpless and the Scandinavians the most isolated. We Arabs will have to get feedback on our performance, but realistic self-assessment is imperative. The activities around the workshops, of course, mattered just as much: the side-discussions. the lobbying, the regional meetings, the manifestations, the demonstrations, business cards, personal gifts, sidewalk national products quickly changed hands. But one form of communication, the most silent of all was heard above all shouts and reached beyond all.

all shouts and reached beyond all.

Pamphlets. These were the banners woven by women in rural and urban areas all over the planet, entrusting their toil and their art to carry their aspirations to the forum. They were carried around collectively by women, spontaneously relieving each other, enfolding the area in an ever-widening circle of love where — for a brief interval — all nationalities seemed to melt.

Now, don't ask me why booth 38 sat next to booth 6 on the conference site; don't ask me why we often ran two miles to workshops whose sponsors never showed up nor apologised. But do ask me, if you will, how 40,000 women descended suddenly upon this tranquil anthill and worked their way through the barbed wire of some of the most intricate, involved and traumatic topics of the 21st century. (And, at the rate of crisis-resolution, of the third millenium). A certain equation must hold the secret: determination, selfrespect, mutual support, awareness, alertness, sensitivity, intuition; knowledge and, of course, relentless efforts. And so it was that the combination between women and China made for the magic that history will record as Beijing 95. Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

Foreign investments in lieu of grants means no peace dividend

IN THEIR pronouncements and talks with Jordan, representatives of Western countries, especially the United States of America, concentrate on the importance and potential of their private sector investments following peace. The reason behind this talk is to avoid living up to their explicit and implicit commitments and promises to us that peace will bear economic dividends which the man in the street will feel. The present verbal promotion of foreign investments is meant to replace direct financial grants which are badly needed to make the benefits of peace felt by the public.

Foreign spokesmen, especially the Americans, preach to us day and night about the importance of improving the investment climate as a justification of the fact that their private sectors are not forthcoming when it comes to investment in Jordan. The end result is that we remain without investments from foreign private sectors and without grants from foreign governments; in other words, we remain without peace dividends.

The main disappointment is, of course, directed at America, the self-appointed sponsor of the peace process. We are made to believe that there is near civil war in Washington between the administration, which is eager to help us, and the Congress, which has a single-minded objective: namely to reduce the deficit and balance the budget. It is of course, a fictitious war with no casualties except ourselves. In this respect, we should point out that the administration did not recommend any meaningful assistance to Jordan except for the write-off of debt, the collection of which was at best doubtful.

The crux of the problem, as we see it, is that the United States has been paying over \$5 billion annually to Israel and Egypt since their peace treaty was signed in 1979, and will continue to pay similar amounts in the future, irrespective of the drive to balance the budget. One should ask, then, why President Clinton

could not ask for more than \$7.2 million to help Jordan economically in its 1996 budget. Is this token amount proportionate to the weight of our contribution to peace as he sees it?

Excuses we hear should be dismissed as not convincing. The balancing of the budget becomes irrelevant as soon as \$13 billion are allocated to foreign aid. Assuming that Israel is a special case, what is applicable to Egypt should be applicable to Jordan. If some parties to peace, such as Egypt, deserve to be assisted, we should be told why such assistance could not be extended to Jordan and why our share should be no more than some advice regarding the importance of foreign investments and improving the climate of investments.

We would be deceiving ourselves if we believed for a moment that the Amman economic summit and conference scheduled for late next month would secure for Jordan investments which would improve the quality of life, raise the standard of living, alleviate poverty and reduce unemployment. People do not survive on impressive speeches, intellectual dialogue and receptions during summits. Most of our infastructural projects. need public sector funds because they do not appeal to the private sector, be it domestic or foreign. The only source for such funds is foreign grants. Borrowing is out of the question because we are already overburdened with debt. Domestic savings are very shallow, and the level of taxes has reached an upper limit.

Let us, then, call a spade a spade. Americal has misled us and let us down. It treats us as an ally, but one that is taken for granted: and not only that. As an ally, America took the liberty of pressuring us to take action against Iraq which may cost us over \$1 billion a year, or a full 17 per cent of our gross domestic product (GDP), without anybody in the State Department losing sleep.

Russia's sympathy for Serbia damages relations with West

By Deborah Seward
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The NATO bombing of the Bosnian Serbs has aroused the Russian bear to anger like no other issues since the end of the cold war, stirring suspicion and antagonism towards the West.

Russian officials have condemned the bombing campaign as genocide, lawmakers have volunteered to act as "human shields," and the public, usually apathetic about political issues, has come out against the airstylles

out against the airstrikes.

At the heart of Russia's emotional response to the fate of the Serbs is deep dismay over its perceived loss of great power status and a feeling NATO is intruding on what Russia historically considered its sphere of influence.

Much of Russia's anger

Much of Russia's anger also stems from a feeling its proposals to end the war have been totally ignored and frustration at the failure of its own diplomacy. Russia has few strategic

interests in the Balkans. But it does have a historical attachment to the region that dates back hundreds of years and has sought to restore cultural and religious links to the Bosnian Serbs that suffered during the cold war.

The bombing appears to have pushed Russia—

have pushed Russia — already deeply concerned by NATO's plans to expand eastwards — over the edge. The airstrikes provide Russians a way, at least verbally, to beat up on the West. "Russia is pushed to the side, is not allowed to fully

and that encroaches on its great power status," wrote Literaturnaya Gazeta, using capital letters to emphasise its dismay,

"You can understand that the United States always wants to be number one in the world," the newspaper

participate in Balkan affairs.

wrote. "They have a lot of money and we're flat broke."

Some Russian media have suggested the CIA was actually behind the bombing of the Sarajevo marketplace last month that led to the bombings, and insinuated that NATO has conspired with the U.N. behind Russials health.

President Boris Yeltsin and his unpopular government have tried to cash in on public outrage over the bombing, which has been widely condemned by parliament, the public and even Mr. Yeltsin's enemies.

"NATO in fact has departed from the search for a political settlement of the problem and staked itself on the use of force," former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev said this week in a statement. "This is an evil path leading to the past, to nowhere."

But Mr. Gorbachev, no friend of Mr. Yeltsin, also criticised the Russian leadership for its emotional response to the bombings, saying they were not helping the situation.

Mr. Yeltsin's heated attack on NATO at a news conference last week is echoed by

his countrymen.

In a poll of 1989 Muscovites last week, 62.3 per cent of respondents condemned the airstrikes. Nearly one-third said NATO was an enemy organisation. The poll, conducted by Mnenie Opinion Research Service, had a margin of error of plus or minus 3 per cent

or minus 3 per cent.

"It's bad. They are destroying a whole nation," Igor Leonov, a young Russian salesman said. "NATO is not God to decide who lives and dies."

Mr. Leonov and other Russians, who like the Serbs are Orthodox Christians and Slavs, believe their country should help the Serbs. But few people seem to believe Russia is in a position to provide military aid.

"We should help the Serbs. We are one faith. They are Slavs too. How to help is difficult," Mr. Leonov said. "I don't think we should get involved in war because we don't have the strength to win."

could we possibly help?" asked Vladimir Tabachnikov, a Russian businessman.
The communist newspaper

"With our poverty, how

The communist newspaper Pravda published a story Thursday on Bosnia headlined, "Today Serbia, tomorrow Russia."

Apart from humanitarian

Apart from humanitarian aid and waves of emotional rhetoric, it seems there is little financially strapped Russia could do to help.

The Russian military is in

shambles and after its abysmal performance in Chechnya. And even on the diplomatic front, despite expressions of brotherhood, the Bosnian Serbs have listened but never really followed Russian recommendations on the way.

LETTERS

Wrong side of tourism
To the Editor:

o the Editor.

RECENTLY I went on a trip to Aqaba with some friends. There was the usual four-hour-long bus ride and, of course, the short stop for refreshments. This is where I got the "inspiration" to write this letter.

As I stood in the usual, pushy crowd around the cashler I saw a confused old man who was obviously a foreigner, trying to sort out a handful of coins. Then, triumphantly reaching the cashler, he asked for an ice-cream stick, which, to my surprise, the man at the cash asked 750 fils for.

I know that tourist places like this were a bit more expensive, but 450 fils more, that was absurd.

I finally realised there was something really wrong when an American woman paid JD 1 for a Pepsi I had just paid 350 fils for and another woman, who had no dinars, ended up paying \$2 for.

My friend and I asked the man how much each of the mentioned items cost (in Arabic of course) and he said 350 fils for each. As another lady willingly paid her dues, we asked the man at the cash if he thought, it was wrong. His answer was: "For these people, no." He then gave us a hostile look and asked us to leave.

We followed the poor women out and told them to be careful, explaining what had just happened. They said that when they were told they did not have to change their dollars into dinars they knew they were going to be ripped off.

We only wonder why one would still want to be a tourist in Jordan.

Tamara Faouri, Amman.

'Educate, practise and enforce'

To the Editor:

WHY ALL this nuisance day after day about Jordanian driving habits? As a foreigner, I am loathe to criticise our hosts whom I admire and respect greatly. But if there is one sure way to raise blood pressure and start expletives flowing, it is driving in Jordan. (Without wishing to belittle the excellent article "Why neglect a major killer?" (Jordan Times, Sept. 11) which discussed the causes of heart attacks, perhaps it should have, along with smoking and mansaf, included driving habits).

As with other environmental and health issues, the

As with other environmental and health issues, the answer lies in education through schools, media and driving establishments. All people must be educated in road safety. (I will not now begin to talk about children playing and people walking in the middle of the roads, which would raise many other issues).

Drivers should be trained and rigorously tested in their knowledge and application of a comprehensive and up-to-date highway code before being granted a licence. In addition, the highway police, (who currently may be found in low speed zones, lurking around corners or hiding under bridges or alternatively bringing the traffic to a standstill on major roundabouts) must also be educated to enforce the code which has been laid down.

In conclusion, we do not need to psychoanalyse society and its morals. We need to educate, practise and enforce.

Sheila Puri, Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

King: Jordan's policy is consistent

(Continued from page 1)

PTEMBER 17, 1987

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refuge here.
"The fact that (General Kamel) came here testifies to with Iraq and to this country's credibility," he said.

Were we supposed to get upset had he gone to another Arab country? It is really an open question why Jordan was subjected to criticism (over the defection). But it is a fact that those who are accusing us of interfering in others' internal affairs are themselves those who excelled in this business."

In reply to a remark that some Arab countries may be trying to marginalise Jordan's regional role the King said: Our role is much greater than our size as a state and we are known to be honest and say what is right." He stressed that Jordan is not after forming axes in the re-gion but rather aims at integration and cooperation with all Arabs.

Asked to comment on meetings between Syria and Iran, and Syria, and Egypt, in the wake of the defection of General Kamel, the King said he would rather decline comment on such contacts

and their aims. The King dismissed talk of essure being exerted on Jordan, following the defection, to join an anti-Saddam not been and there will not be pressures against Jordan. We will not succumb to pressure from any quarter," he said. "We follow our convictions, and in any way exaggeration in accusing others of exercising pressures on us undermines our belief in ourselves and touches our credibility. We have never given to pressure, even in the most difficult of circumst-

In a reply to a question on what Jordan could do to help the Iraqis, short of interfering in Iraq's internal affairs, the King said: "I do not have a magic solution. But the least we could do is to shed light on what is happening inside the country.

The King said that even his repeated calls for dialogue to settle the traq problem beginning with pinpointing what the root cause of the problem seemed to have been deliberately misinterpreted.

He recalled that "we needed to know, especially the influential powers, about Iraq. Does the problem lie with the regime with Iraq?"

If such a call, he said, can be interpreted as "interference in the internal affairs of Iraq, we ought to know."

The King cited the exam-ple of Haiti, where the regime was removed without bloodshed and violence despite a massive initial U.N. military effort, and noted that political dialogue had ended the problem rather than military moves.

"We have called for dialogue and contacts, and we gave the example of Haiti, of how the U.N. mobilised arms. and expressed readiness tosave democracy or bring about its rebirth.

"In the last minute political figures were asked to mediate with the officials in Haiti. with the result that the operation was carried out without bloodshed. What about the people of Iraq in such a

"We have never stopped for a moment during all these years in defending Iraq and its right to life," said the

King. However, he noted, Iraq's credibility itself has been brought to question.

"Naturally there were factors which affected Iraq's cre-Jordan's long-term bonds dibility," said the King. "If we consider the weapons of mass destruction for instance, (we find that) Iraq used to say that it did not possess a certain weapon or that it did not develop weapons, then it changes its position.' On the Jordanian-Israeli

peace treaty, the King rejected assertions that it had set back democracy in Jordan. On the contrary, the King noted, the peace treaty went through the Jordanian constitutional and democratic process and was endorsed by the Kingdom's elected parliament before it took effect. As such, the entire process had added strength to democracy in Jordan, he said, also pointing out that Jordan's very decision to join the Middle East peace process launched in Madrid came after a national conference endorsed the move.

"Peace never posed an obstacle to democracy," the King said.

The King spoke about the expulsion of Egyptian and Palestinian workers from Libya as an example of the deteriorating state of affairs in Arab relations. He said that the Palestinians who coalition, saying there has have been expelled are now stranded in the desert and out at sea, with no Arab country willing to give them refuge. "We cannot change our stand regarding our commitments to the Arab Nation just as we cannot conspire against others because this is not our policy. We have been affected by all the developments and the dangers that have faced our nation. If there is no value to the Arab person this would lead to explosions throughout the Arab World," the King said.

His Majesty said he expected relations with Saudi Arabia to improve further. "Jordan's relations with the Gulf states are going in the right direction and we hope to receive the Saudi ambassador soon while a summit meeting (with King Fahd) could be held at a later stage. Such meeting will remove all the harmful elements that have adversely affected Arab relations," the King said.

In reply to another question concerning the meetings held in Amm question of displaced Palestinians and their repatitiation, the Monarch said that delay in settling the question of repatriating them was due to a variety of reasons. "I pushed for a solution and will continue to do so," he said.

Referring to internal affairs the King said that the Kingdom was now preparing for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, "which we hope will contribute to the development of the whole region and not Jordan alone. We hope that this conference will help bring about a major benefit for the future generations. I am very optimistic about the outcome of the conference."

Referring to the performance of Parliament, the King voiced his satisfaction in general, noting in particular that Parliament has been dealing promptly with new-laws. He also expressed satisfaction with the close cooperation among the executive, legislative and judicial au-

King Hussein said he was keen on keeping the media in the picture with regards to

that the journalists also had responsibilities to shoulder. I frankly wish from my brothers here to seek out the truth through their own channels as true journalists and also to realise the great role which Jordan is playing. You should realise that our sole aim is to offer service to the Arab Nation and to set a

political developments but

good example to others." The King added: "May I frankly point out that at the media level we have been constantly losing battles as a result of confusion which characterises our attitude though I personally and every state official are close to you. I hope that you will exert more efforts so as to rise to the required level and carry out your duties."

Israel, PLO in intense push

(Continued from page 1) However, serious sticking points remain and a senior Israeli defence ministry spokesman did not rule out yet another missed deadline in the next phase of self-rule.

Israeli military radio said Mr. Peres would present Mr. Arafat with a compromise proposal he drew up with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Chief-of-Staff Amnon Shahak and chief Israeli negotiator Uri Savir. Under the plan, the Israeli

army and police would keep ultimate control of security in the town but give greater powers to the Palestinian police who would be responsible for security in Palestinian areas of Hebron. The PLO has insisted that

any Israeli presence must be severely limited in both numbers and time.

The Palestinians also want to set down the exact bound-

aries of areas to remain initially under Israeli control. such as military bases and Jewish settlements, so they are not allowed to expand.

Another stumbling-block is Israel's refusal to set free immediately the Palestinians held in its jails.

Mr. Peres said he would ask the PLO leader for "guarantees that the autonomous areas will not be allowed to turn into safe havens for terrorists on the

"It doesn't matter whether terrorists are in prison in Israel or in the autonomous zones, as long as they are jailed for the crimes they have committed against Israelis," he said. Israel said meanwhile, it

arrested three Palestinians for the murder of a Palestinian man in the West Bank whose killing had been claimed by an extremist Jew-

ish group.
The police serious crimes unit and the (West Bank) police in conjunction with the GSS (General Security Service) and the army have uncovered the perpetrators of the murder of Salman Zamari in Halhoul," a police spokesman said.

Three men, all residents of the West Bank town, were arrested and a fourth suspect whose identity was known to police was being sought, he said.

The murder was apparently committed on a criminal background and some of the suspects were cooperating with police, he added.

Following the killing last week an Israeli extremist group named Eyal said it shot dead Zamari, 25, at his home in Halhoul, near Hebron. Palestinian sources said a group of masked men in Israeli army uniforms who spoke Hebrew killed Zamari.

Parties are a must – leaders

(Continued from page 12)

we continue this way, the democratisation experience will be in danger in the future," he said, noting that it does not serve the interests of Arab "despots" to have a democratic model in Jordan.

"Those claiming democracy in the Western world want it for their people, not for us. because they know their in-terests will be harmed by the success of democracy in our countries," Mr. Khreisha concluded.

> Al Watan (homeland) Party Secretary General Bahjat Al Majali dealt with obstacles facing political parties in Jordan, whether those posed by the government, by citizens or by political parties them-

"I am pained to say that if selves, in addition to recent regional and international developments.

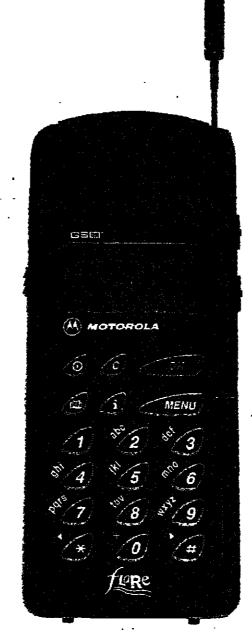
Mr. Majali said the government was not serious in dealing with political parties, adding that it does not consult them in any matter of national interest.

He said the government harasses some political party members and does not allow them the chance to use the mass media to express their

Mr. Majali admitted that the Jordanian political parties were still novice and suffering from financial problems and are unable to draft convincing platforms to deal with national problems.

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Serbs tardy; NATO alert

(Continued from page 1)

ernment troops had overrun the town of Kljuc, encircled Bosnaski Krupa and were marching on Sanski Most. Serb authorities in the northern town of Banja Luka reported that Croat forces were also closing on Kljuc

and Mrkonjic Grad and that government troops were continuing attacks in the Mount Ozren region. U.N. officials reported between 10,000 and 15,000 Serb refugees in Banja Luka, the north-central Serb stronghold, with around 40,000

more on the road, fleeing troops or Bosnian Croat miliopen, despite rain. Refugees

to go to other towns, panick-

ed that they also might fall. "The situation in Banja Luka is very difficult and chaotic," said Alemka Lisinski, a U.N. refugee agency spokeswoman in Zagreb, Croatia. There are people with cars, horse carts, sheep herds and tractors in every street, making Banja Luka one huge traffic jam."

Bosnian radio said that government troops on Saturday entered Kljuc, less than 50 kilometres southwest of Banja Luka.

Mr. Gunness, the U.N. spokesman, said there were unconfirmed reports that Serbs had slaughtered Muslim villagers in the Donji Vakuf area,

Donji Vakuf, about 80 kilometres southwest of Sarajevo, is one of the towns recently retaken from the Serbs by government forces taking advantage of the NATO airstrikes. Mr. Gunness said they and the Bosnian Croats had made "signioffensives by government ficant gains" to the West, along the Croatian border.

The gains have brought Some people slept in the Serb-controlled territory down to about 58 per cent of ignored pleas by authorities the country, according to new intelligence reports cited by another U.N. official in

Sагајеvo. Capturing Kljuc and the rest of the road to Jajce, 40 kilometres to the southeast, would bring a decent paved road between the northwest Bihac enclave and most government-held territory in central Bosnia under the control of the Sarajevo regime.

TEL.:863750 FAX.:863770

Bank of Lebanon to continue defending lira

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's central bank will continue its policy of defending the Lebanese lira on the Beirut foreign exchange market. Bank of Lebanon governor. Riad Salameh was quoted Saturday as saying.

'The bank will stay in the foreign exchange market to defend the Lebanese lira's exchange rate," As Safir daily quoted Mr. Salameh as saying at a meeting Friday with officials of Lebanon's Banks Association grouping Beirut's 82 banks.

Mr. Salameh's remark came a day after a grouping of Lebanese businessmen said in a report that the bank should stop intervening reg-ularly on the foreign exchange market as soon as possible to allow for a real market to

The Bank of Lebanon often intervenes on the market selling U.S. dollars to defend the lira, especially in times of political crisis which usually witness a flight from the local to the American

The policy of defending the lira depleted the central bank's net foreign exchange reserves by more than \$1 billion between January and

depleting the bank's reserves. Mr. Salameh replied:

"I am not afraid of more defence of the lira if the 1996 public budget comes out as it should come out, especially as there will be remittances (from abroad) that have begun to flow again."
Mr. Salameh said there

was an agreement with the ministry of finance on lowering all items in the 1996 budget draft "so that the deficit would not exceed 40 per cent for any reason."

He said he was relieved for the disappearance of selling pressure on the lira witnessed recently. The run was caused by a political crisis between Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri and Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri that was solved last week.

In a second step to boost the lira, Mr. Salameh said he was in contact with the ministries of finance, and economy and trade, to take measures forcing merchants to use the local currency in transac-

Meanwhile, Mr. Hariri has responded to criticism of his ambitious plan to rebuild post-war Lebanon by saying that the project's benefits will be felt gradually.

"I stress that the yield of Asked about the usefulness most projects we have begun of such a policy that was to build will appear gradually." Mr. Hariri was quoted by local newspapers as telling a delegation of Beirut dignitaries Friday.

"We are concentrating on everything that will reactivate the economic situation and consolidate it, and this includes looking after local in-dustry to raise production and establishing industrial free zones and free zones in all areas," he added.

The Lebanese Business men's Association (LBA) Friday slammed Mr. Hariri's Horizon Plan, which will cost up to \$18 billion over 12 years, saying it was too extravagant and should be cut

The plan to rebuild after the ravages of the 1975-90 civil war was not sufficient to boost the economy without an accompanying economic and social programme, LBA

Mr. Hariri, responding to LBA warnings of a worsening balance of payments and trade deficits as well as depending debt, said the Lebanese economy was growing at a good rate.

Measures implemented by the two governments he headed since first coming to power in October 1992 were giving positive results that were being felt by Lebanese, Mr. Hariri added.

Economic targets set for easing women's poverty

BELIING (AFP) - The Platform for Action adopted by U.N. states here Friday paints a distressing tableau of poverty afflicting hundreds of millions of women, and calls for a two-pronged effort to

ease their plight.
"More than one billion people in the world today, the great majority of whom are women, live in unacceptable conditions of poverty. mostly in the developing countries," it says. "In the past decade, the

number of women living in poverty has increased disproportionately to the number of men... the feminisation of poverty has also recently become a significant problem in the countries with economies transition," it

While admitting that poverty is a "complex, multidimensional problem," the document calls for macroeconomic efforts to ease structural deficiencies, such as debt — but also for work at the grass-roots, such as financing for small enterprises run by women. Its main recommendations:

the big multilateral aid agencies, such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, but also from national governments and the private sector, for projects that target women in poverty. No figures are specified.

- That wealthy countries carry out "the immediate implementation" of the 1994 Paris Club agreements which provide for debt forgiveness or reduction for poorer countries. That the industrialised world, "develop techniques" to convert debt repayments into specific projects for poorer women.

 That poorer countries pursue "sound and stable macro-economic and sectoral policies... (that) encourage broad-based sustained economic growth." Those groups vulnerable to the impact of tough policies should be given help.

- That legal and administrative hurdles that block women in some countries from owning or inheriting land or gaining access to credit be removed.

Sudan's labour chief appeals for better wages for workers

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) - The head of Sudan's trade unions federation has appealed for the government to improve workers' salaries to help them cope with rising food prices.

The appeal by Al Sir Hassan Abdoun came as calm returned to Khartoum after days of anti-government riot-

Deepening economic prob-lems in Sudan may have contributed to the unrest.

Consumer prices have been rising at a 58 per cent annual rate, and in recent weeks there have been shortages of bread, a staple in the Sudanese diet.

Mr. Abdoun said workers' salaries had not kept pace with prices, which have risen sharply since 1992 when the government of Lieutenant General Omar El Bashir began to try to liberalise the economy. Under his economic re-

form programme, a number of government-owned companies have been sold and the prices of an increasing numbeen left to the marketplace.

ber of commodities have But the reform efforts have been hurt by a lack of help

from outside. Sudan is getting no aid from world institutions like the International Monetary Fund because it failed to pay past debts. And Western nations, which have been critical of Sudan's human rights record, have cut all but emergency

Mr. Abdoun called for "liberalising salaries and wages so that they will match prices liberalisations and, therefore, guarantee a decent life for workers."

Salaries average about 10,000 Sudanese pounds (\$17) per month in Khar-

In the past two weeks, the price of traditional Arab bread has risen to 30 pounds (5 cents) from 20 pounds (3.5 cents) and the government is expected to announce a further increase this week.

The government blames higher prices for wheat purchased on the international market, in some cases up 40 per cent.

Most 'families subsist on vegetables, fruits, bread and various grains. Meat at 1,000 pounds (\$1.7) is out of reach for most people.

World Bank: \$1.5 trillion needed for Asian infrastructure

WASHINGTON (AFP) -Developing countries in Asia will need to invest \$1.2 to \$1.5 trillion infrustructure over the next decade, according to a World Bank report. China represents 51 per cent of those needs, followed by Korea (18 per cent). Indonesia (11 per cent). Thailand (10 per cent). Malaysia and the Philippines (three per cent), according to the report "Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific: Toward a New Public-Private Partnership. The invest-ment input is needed to sustain economic growth, made up for inadequate past investment, and cope with mussive urbanisation and the globalisation of world trade. The report said the public sector had neither the resources nor the organisational capacity to come up with the massive investment needed - and that the private sector would have to pick up the slack. Private infrastructure has paid off, the report said, in China, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines in such areas as telecommunications. energy and toll roads.

Turkey hikes consumer charge to curb inflation

ANKARA (R) — Turkey raised charges imposed on consumer credits Friday. pushing ahead with a 10-day drive to cool the economy and restrain inflation.

A resource utilisation and support fund charge on consumer credits rose by four percentage points to 10 per The credit tightening, de-

signed to curb domestic demand and slow economic growth, is one of the measures taken in line with International Monetary Fund (IMF) advice since Sept. 5. The Turkish central bank

has stopped purchasing foreign currency from banks and increased overnight borrowing rates on the lira interbank. The Turkish lira has

appreciated by 1.5 per cent against a currency basket. made up of one dollar and 1.5 marks, since Sept. 4.

The IMF recommendation

showing a big 12.4 per cent increase in the second quarter of 1995, following a 6.1 per cent contraction in 1994 and 0.3 per cent fall in the

first quarter of this year. Monthly inflation remained above expectations in the June-August period when the central bank, urged by exporters, let the lira depreci-

The bank, trying to halt excessive liquidity injection into the economy through short-term foreign capital inflow, has also imposed a six per cent charge on banks foreign borrowing deals.

Attractive margins between high domestic interest rates and relatively lower depreciation created a firm ground for an increased short-term foreign capital in-

"It was not the right time to brake the economy,

follows Turkey's gross Orhan Emirdag, general national product (GNP) manager of private Pamukmanager of private Pamuk-

bank, told Reuters. He said he believed there was no reason to worry about inflation, which slowed to 80.3 per cent in August from high of 156 per cent in January.

But treasury chief Ayfer Yilmaz said: "Such measures are taken in every country which implements tight monetary policy."
She told reporters the ma-

jor aim of the operation was to reduce inflation which had already exceeded the yearon-year 1995 target of 40 per

The 1995 GNP growth may also overshoot the target of I per cent. pect the growth rate to hit six per cent

"Markets have received signals of the tight monetary policy. They will reach a ba-lance soon." Mr. Yilmaz

Iran beats currency crisis but

DUBAI (R) — Iran has weathered a crisis of confidence in its currency but now faces a key credibility test in its ability to repay huge foreign debts over the next year,

diplomats say. The Iranian riyal's value against the dollar has recovered since May when the government, facing a curren-cy crisis fuelled by U.S. President Bill Clinton's announcement of trade sanctions against Iran, reasserted stringent control over currency dealing and capital flows out of the country.

Diplomats say Tehran stopped the run on the rival, which threatened to take monthly double digit inflation to even more uncomfortable levels, by arresting unofficial exchange dealers and beefing up border controls.

"A feeling that everything was out of control is now

over... some peace has been restored," a Western diplomat in the Iranian capital

Diplomats and bankers in Tehran said Iran has to pay the principal and interest of rescheduled debts amounting to between \$5 billion and \$6 billion in 1996, nearly half of its budgeted oil revenues.

Iran's ability to attract fresh international funding to finance its 1995-2000 development plan, the continuation of a reform programme started by President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, will hinge on repayment performance next year, diplomats say.

Although a black market for riyals still exists at about 4,000 to the dollar, above the official central bank (markazi) rate of 3,000-3,015 to the dollar, it is far off the rate of 7,000 riyals seen at the height

of May's currency break-

"Prices are being controlled. Prices are not going down but a monthly inflation rate as high as 20 per cent is being cut," said Fariborz Raisdana, senior researcher at the Higher Research Institute for Economy and Industry in

Foreign creditors are watching state control of inflation through the rival and also a policy of restricting imports to keep foreign exchange to meet international debt obligations.

Though Iran has oil exports of 2.5 million barrels

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nigh debts loom per day (b/d) - second only to those of Saudi Arabia nearly half of the budgeted \$13.5 billion oil revenue will have to be diverted to debt

Iranian officials hope nonoil export revenue of \$4.5 billion in the last Iranian year (March 1994-March 1995) will grow this year despite new rules that forces most non-oil exporters to purchase hard currency at the new 3,000 riyal-dollar rate and repatriate all hard currency earnings to the central bank.

"Non-oil exports have been hit by the new rules and industry does not have

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

enough raw materials because of the import clampdown," a diplomat adding that the Iranian economy needed structural reform.

Even though oil earnings are currently above budget doubts loom over the outlook for 1996 revenues by talk in OPEC circles the group will not be able to raise its quotas next year because of increased production in non-OPEC countries such as Nor-

Economists are also forecasting a two per cent fall in Iran's GDP this year, which would make it one of the 1 worst economic performers in the Middle East.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have many fine ideas which can bring you closer to your goals today, so utilise them to your best advantage.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Meditate for a while to-day and let your hunches rise to the surface and you will know what is best to do later

tonight. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Some worldly situation may arise which can please you very much today. Turn it to your greatest advantage. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Plan how to organise your tasks for later today so that you can get excellent results for you to

succeed LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Expand in activities during the daytime and be successful in whatever you are doing. Show more affection for your

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Sitting down with your family and discussing how to have more accord \$ for today and tonight is wise. Invite guests into your home.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan whatever you want to do later today and discuss ideas with those who can be of assistance to

SCORPIO: (October 23 to . November 21) You have fine ideas how to improve your property and add to their value, especially if multiple properties.

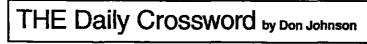
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are highly magnetic and can make a fine impression on others today. Schedule the new week's activities.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Plan how to get better results in your chosen vocation. Show that you are thoughtful and kind towards those you come in contact.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be your gregarious self today and draw many a friend closer to you. Think and be happy and active towards good friends. PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Wander idly about town today and you can gain many cherished wishes and

ties. Ask for favours. Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

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THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

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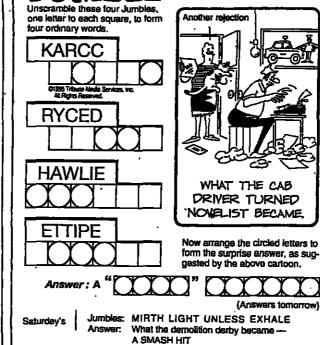


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A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Khatib reviews tourism problems and plans

☆☆ TRAVEL AND tourism

offices will be required to submit a guarantee for at least JD 50,000 under new regulations being considered by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities. The minister of tourism, Abdul Elah Al Khatib, explained that increased violations by these offices and their failure to abide by the tourism programmes they promote have necessitated a reconsideration of the regulations governing the operations of traveel and tourism entities. The minister, answering questions put to him by members of the Philadelphia Lions Club. covered other areas related to tourism but excluded the car rental offices, which, he said, were presently operating on bases that have nothing to do with tourism. He described the car rental offices as a sector suffering for major deficiencies and called for organising this sector to operate on touristic basis at the level of limousine service. "At present car rental services are not directed only to tourism, and their current status does not permit classifying them in the tourism profession," Mr. Khatib said pointing out that this sector is the foremost problematic that carries security implications related to the Ministry of Interior. "The ministry is against

Asked about complaints of not providing services and facilities to hotels in Petra, the minister said it was a mistake by the government and the private sector to build the hotels at their present sites. He indicated that the building of hotels in Petra was carried out in the absence of a comprehensive plan and that the government was mistaken to grant licences. He added that the hotels had harmed the antiquities in the city and pointed out that there was a big environmental problem affecting the hotels in Petra. "The government did not promise the hotel owners water, sewage system and transport facilities when it issued the licences to them." Mr. Khatib said, noting that some licences were obtained by "arm twisting." However, he said, the government was working to pro-vide the hotels with water, electricity and other necessary infrastructure facilities.

a touristic category under the

present circumstances," he

Noting that the ministry has budgetted JD 500,000 this year for touristic prints and publications, Mr. Khatib called on tourism offices to print their own booklets or to participate with the ministry in this regard.

Mr. Khatib affirmed that there was a consensus to admit deficiencies in the Jordanian tourism sector, "It is impossible to transform Jordan into a Riviera in three months," he said pointing out that tourism difficulties in the Kingdom were societyrelated difficulties and not institutional-governmental. He stressed that there was no methodological tourism plan PRICOR Description of the state at present and no basic organisational designs for Petra although work on such designs is being carried out

Another hindrance. OF ARH have all the second of according to the minister, was the tourism legislation which does not help the official or the citizen. He said his Control of the second of the s ministry was being assisted by the World Tourism Organisation to upgrade the tourism

Mr. Khatib revealed that the ministry has contracted a. specialised international company to reclassify all hotels to keep up with interhational requirements (Al

Costs drive car factories out of Germany

Mercedes-Benz has turned the harsh spotlight on costs and the rise of the mark by announcing a big investment in Brazil.

The decision by Mercedes-Benz to invest 600 million marks (\$408 million) in a new factory in Brazil is part of a trend among German car manufacturers to escape from high labour costs in Germany and the strength of the mark.

"Made in Germany" has come to mean that the product cannot compete against vehicles made elsewhere in Europe or the United States. The president of

Mercedes-Benz, Helmut Werner, said that the new Brazilian factory would produce 900,000 of the new A class model for the South American market. The company wanted to increase the proportion of

cars made abroad from 10 per cent to 25 per cent of the total within eight to 10 years, he At the beginning of this

year the company stirred controversy in Germany by deciding to build its new Smart car, developed with the Swiss Swatch watch companay, at Hambach-Sarreguemines in France instead of in Ger-

The company said that labour at the plant in France cost less and was more flexi-

ble than in Germany.
"Made in Germany" is to become "Made in Mercedes" as a means of maintaining an image of high quality. German car manufacturers have not yet transferred pro-

duction abroad on a massive scale but they talk readily of "globalisation" of production and sales. Volkswagen, the higgest European car manufacturer. has opted instead to acquire

foreign companies in difficulties such as Seat in Sapin or Skoda in the Czech Republic. The investment in Spain has run into severe financial problems and a rescue is

under wav. On Wednesday the Commission of the European Union sought comments from industry and EU members states about Spanish public aid for a restructuring of the

company. BMW acquired the British Rover company in March

1994 and has decided to build a new factory in the United

States. The president of the German federation of car manufacturers VDA. Erika Emmerich, said that the rise of the mark coupled with an increase of 4.0 per cent in pay in Germany this year, had "given new meaning to the risks attached to producing cars in German soil.

The German car industry sold 55 per cent of its production worth 123 billion marks. abroad in 1994 but when the mark rises, the price of German cars on export markets

Mrs. Emmerich said that she was worned about the effects of the trend to produce abroad becase in Germanyone job in seven dependened directly or indirectly on the car industry.

In Germanay, average pay in the industry in 1994 was 57 marks (\$39) per hour. This was nearly double the rate in France, Spain and Italy, the VDA said.

German manufacturers are unions to increase the flex- ceive higher pay."

He said laboratory tests on

the chicken served by KFC

were carried out following

complaints from the public.

director of the PepsiCo

Restaurants-India, the local

Sandeep Kohli, managing

ibility of working schedules Adam Opel A.G., a sub-sidiary of the U.S. company General Motors, recently reached such an agreement with its employees in what it said was the first arrangement of its type in the German car industry.

Under the arrangement, employees will work 30-38,75 hours per week over four or five days in a way which will be adjusted to the amount of orders without affecting monthly pay.

On Tuesday Volkswagen agreed with the I.G. Metall union that its staff may work up to 38.8 hours per week depending on orders.

A VW official said that an overall agreement was needed to permit an employee to work up to 6P hours per week if he wanted.

"Flexibility pays." he said.
"At BMW we have abolished work per particular task. Individual performance is now more important than presence at work and an employee doing more for the negotiating hard with trades, company, will logically re-

Japan to lend Syria \$565m

DAMASCUS (R) - Japan agreed to grant Syria a \$565 million soft loan in talks between Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus Saturday,

a Japanese official said. The official said the 58.854 billion yen (\$565) Ioan was agreed to finance a thermal power plant project which would boast Syria's electricity generation capacity to meet. demand increasing at 20 per

He said the project, involving the construction of thermal generators able to run both on fuel oil and natural gas, would have a capacity of producing 600 megawatts. It would be located some 200 kilometres north of Damas-

The loan is the third to be extended by Japan to Syria. One loan amounting to 51.598 billion yen (\$495 million) was granted in 1991 and

cent annually.

it financed a thermal power plant in central Syria. An earlier loan, amounting to 29.63 billion yen (\$284 million), financed an expansion plan at the Banias power plant on the Mediterranean in 1986.

The Japanese official said the Syrian government had been paying all its previous loan instalments but there were arrears on the private commercial sector amounting to around \$100 million.

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- 1	ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	25950	37836	1.450	1-440
Į	NATIONAL INDUSTRIES INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	9250	10649	1.160	1.130
- 1	JORDAN ROCKWOOL IMPUSTRIES	45150	85785	1,920	1.900
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١	ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	100	1430 214	1.470 2.140	1.430
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Kentucky Fried Chicken vows to stay on in India

NEW DELHI (AFP) - India's first Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) outlet was ordered to close on health grounds but the U.S. fast-food giant vowed to

fight the move and insisted its fare was wholesome. Municipal authorities in Gangalore ordered the clo-

While the prescribed limit of MSG is one per cent, the

sure of the KFC restaurant in the southern Indian city after tests found its "finger-licken"

Financial

Markets

good" chicken contained double the allowable amount of monosodium glutamate, or

KFC samples contained 2.8 per cent, said A. Ravindra of the Bangalore City Corporation. "So we have withdrawn the licence given to KFC and ordered the closure of the outlet.'

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	Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New yerk Class Int 14/9/95	New York Close Date 15/9/95
Sterling Pound	1.5470	1.5500
Deutsche Murk	1.4683	1.4883
Swiss Franc	1.2145	1.2065
French Franc	5.1265	5.1190
Japanese Yen	102.55	104.13
European Curreny Unit	1.2603	1.2595

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Енго	THE PERSON	всу	Interest	Plates

Currency	I MTH	3 MTHS	o MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.62	5.62	5.62	5.62
Sterling Pound	é.50	6.43	6.43	6.43
Deutsche Mark	3.43	3.93	3.93	5.95
Swiss Franc	2,75	26.2	2.08	2.68
French Franc	5.63	5.63	5.68	5.55
Japanese Yen	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.43
European Currency Unit	5.43	5.38	5.38	5.40

Precious it	fletals	Dute: 16/9·1995			
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	385.05	7.50	Silver	5.49	0.120
26 Name			•		

	Date: 16/9/1995		
Currency	Bád	Offer	
U.S. Dollar	0.7160	0.7180	
Sterling Pound	1.1090	1.1145	
Deutsche Mark	0.4802	0.4826	
Swim Franc	0.5923	0,5953	
French Franc	0.1397	0.1404	
Japanese Yen	0.6608	0.6902	
Dutch Guilder	0.4291	0.4312	
Swedish Krona	*****	*****	
Italian Lira [:]	0.0444	0.0446	
Belgian Franc	77447	71667	

Other Currencies		Date: 16/9/1995		
Currency		Bid	Offer	
Bahraini Dinar		1.8830	1.8955	
Lebanese Lira		0.043685	0.044885	
Saudi Riyal		0.1904	0.1920	
Kuwaiti Dinar	•	2.2950	2.3355	
(Jatari Riyal		0.1954	0.1967	
Egyptian Pound		0.2000	0.2180	
()mani Riya)		1.8505	1.8590	
UAE Dirham		0.1945	0.1953	
Greek Dractima		0.2825	0.3055	
Cyprict Pound		1.1995	1.5650	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) - Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and

llion markets Saturday.			
ne U.S.	dollar	1.3662/72	
		1.4872/82	
		1.6648/58	
		1.2050/60	
		30.57/61	
		5.1150/00	
		1607.6/8.6	
		103.33/43	
		7.1410/10	
		6.4820/70	
		5.7491/41	

Canadian dollar Deutschemarks Dutch guilders Swiss francs Belgian francs French francs Italian lire Japanese yen Swedish crowns Norwegian crowns Danish crowns

\$1.5518/28 One Sterling One ounce of gold \$384.80/385.30

arm of U.S.-based PepsiCo Inc., rejected the charges that KFC was using more of the popular food additive than specified by India's Prevention of Food Adulteration conditioned kitchen. "MSG is used as a flavouring agent in Europe, the United States and other countries and nobody has a problem," he told reporters. "MSG is an additive in some of our products but it is Municipal authorities in well below one per cent," Mr. Kohli said, calling for

independent tests. He said his company remained "bullish" on India and would go ahead with plans to invest \$80 million over the next seven years. opening KFC outlets in Bombay, New Delhi and other

"We have appealed against the (Bangalore) order and tremely hopeful of getting a

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"They did not give us time

to either react or answer the charges," he said, adding that "the health aspect was never in doubt in the minds of the seven millon customers we service daily in 9,400 stores across 78 countries.1

Mr. Kohli said the Bangalore outlet, which opened in June, was the "cleanest" restaurant in India and was equipped with an air-"We are providing foreign

capital, technology and hygiene. We are creating jobs and supporting two core industries - food processing and tourism," he said. "KFC has been wrongly vilified."

Bangalore, capital of Karnataka state, said they would reconsider their stand if KFC "conformed to our stan-

They also charged KFC with "misbranding" the product and not publishing a statutory warning stating that the chickens were unfit for -consumption by infants less than a year old.

Several centrist and lefthave got a stay," he said. "As wing politicians have of now we are in business. opposed the entry of KFC Our Bangalore restaurant is and other U.S. fast-food still open (and) we are ex- chains into India claiming "junk food" was carcinogenic and would affect Indian dietary habits.

JORDAN MARKET



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Italy pays emotional farewell to Nordahl

on Saturday paid emotional tribute to Gunnar Nordahl, the Swedish attacker whose unrivalled goalscoring exploits with AC Milan thrilled the nation in the austere

"If I close my eyes, I still see him going for goal... we loved you Gunnar and you deserved our affection," said former prime minister and Milan owner Silvio Berlusco-

Nordahl, a league cham-pion with Milan in 1951 and 1955 and whose record of 210 goals for the club still stands today, died on Friday of a heart attack while swimming in a hotel pool in Alghero, Sardinia. He was 73.

Milan and Roma, with

Bayern Munich's Andreas Herzog (2nd left) fights for the

ball with Thomas Ritter (left) and Thomas Hengen (right) of

1. FC Kaiserlautern during their German first division

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leaving Milan, said they would pay their respects at a Serie A clash on Sunday with a minute's silence and black armbands.

"Soccer is in tears," said the Corriere Dello Sport. "He was the greatest attacking centre-forward in our his-

tory."
The Gazzetta Dello Sport devoted three pages to the attacker, who was the first Swede to play professionally abroad and was top scorer in Italy for five seasons, three of them consecutively. He was runner-up twice.

Only French ace Michel Platini has since managed to be top goalscorer three times

"Gunnar amazed the fans of the 1950s, filling pages of Milan history. His goals have become legendary," the Gazzetta said. "There will be many peo-

ple with damp eyes during the minute's silence." The paper reminded its readers of how the Swede, winner of a soccer gold medal

at the 1948 Olympics, had arrived in a depressed postwar Italy trying to rebuild its "They were days of reconstruction for an Italy that was knocked about by the war. People were seeing hope in life again and Gunnar be-

came in some way a symbol." Nordahl, with compatriots

match in Kaiserlautern. Bayern Munich won the match 3-2

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Gunnar Gren and Nils Liedholm made up the socalled Gre-No-Li attacking trio at Milan — a line-up that has been compared to Milan's Dutch threesome of Marco Van Basten, Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard in the 1980s.

Liedholm was the stylist, Gren - nicknamed "il professore" and who died in 1991 - was the tactician, and Nordahl the honest strongman, forcing the ball into the

Liedholm, who later coached Milan and Roma, said Nordahl - nicknamed "bison" and "armoured car" for his strength and "il pompierone" (the big fireman) because that was his profession outside soccer - had

"I have just lost my sister and now my brother is dead too," he wrote on Saturday. "Gunnar was a brother to

Andrew Control of the first of the control of the c

"It was he who brought me to Italy. I didn't want to come... but he convinced me. No player has ever been more of a hero in Italy than Gunnar," said Liedholm.

"He liked Van Basten and said he was the only man capable of beating his record. Maybe he wasn't as good in the air as Van Basten but his strength was spectacular. He was the greatest goalscorer of all time.

Giampiero Boniperti, a rival with Juventus, said simply: "With him, part of my life has gone.'

Kankkunen leads Australian Rally

PERTH (AP) — Four-time winner Juha Kankkunen of Finland held a 16 second lead over defending champion Colin McRae on Saturday after seven stages of Rally Australia, sixth round of the World Championship.

Kankkunen had an elapsed time of one hour, 24 seconds in his Toyota Celica and reported "everything is fine", while Scotsman McRae had clocked 1:00.40 in his Subaru Impreza but suffered damage to the rear of the car.

Mitsubishi Lancer teammates Tommi Makinen of Finland (1:00.51) and Kenneth Eriksson of Sweden (1:00.54) were third and fourth with reigning world champion Didier Auriol of France fifth in his Toyota Celica at 1:10.01 and Carlos Sainz of Spain sixth in his Subaru at 1:01.27.

Kankkunen, a four-time world champion, has dominated previous Australian rallies. He has competed six times, winning on four occasions and twice finishing

A fifth victory on the rough gravel roads of Western Australia would put the 36-yearold in line for another world title to add to those he won in 1986, 87, 91 and 93. Auriol currently has 51

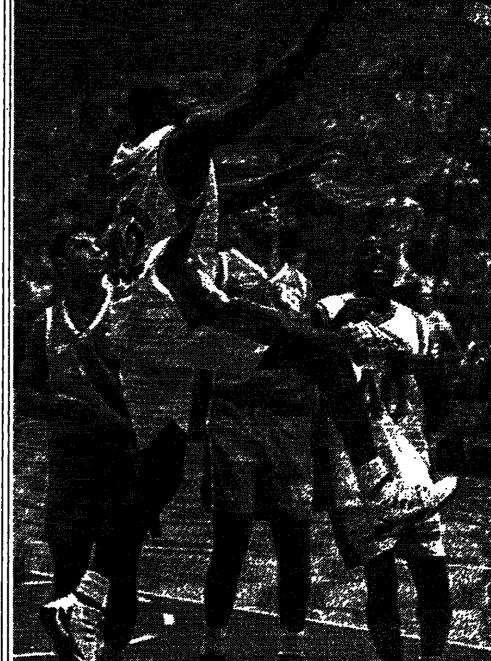
points while Kankkunen and Sainz have 50 and McRae has

McRae has vowed to take a cautious approach in Austra-

"This is one rally where if you take risks you won't last too long," he said. "The stages are too difficult and there is no room for error." A record entry of more than 94 cars started the fourday event late Friday. It features 30 special stages cover-

ing 504 kilometres. The drivers were to cover 11 stages around perth on Saturday before finishing the day back in the city.

Two world championship events remain after Rally Australia - Britain's RAC Rally and the Catalunya Rally in



U.S. basketball star Magic Johnson jumps to Mike Mc Gee (right) look on during a show score as Tolga Tekinalp (left) and Charles game in Istanbul. Magic All Stars won the Shackleford (centre) of Ulker and All Stars' game 148-102 (Reuters photo)

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

the hand is enough to take that action and then correct a two-club

Q. 2 - East-West vulnerable, as

South you hold:

aK762 VAKJ65 OA8 a72
The bidding has proceeded:

EAST SOUTH WEST NORTH

1 Dbl Pass IV

Pass ?

What do you bid now?

A - Your heart support is most impressive, but your hand is not all that robust. Still it is worth some 17 points, and we think a raise to two hearts describes it adequately If partner can't bid again over this encouraging move, it is most unlikely you are missing game.

Q.3 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q. 1 - As South, vulnerable, you TLAS bioVP EEBDI GAJT the bidding with one spade. What action do you take?

A - The trouble with a two-diamond overcall is that you might miss a good four-heart contract. Therefore, double. The trick-taking power of the head is contract, the test is contract. 20

What action do you take? A - That depends on your methods.
If the double is negative, slam is
possible and you should announce your aspirations with a cue-bid of three-hearts. If the double is for penalties, a promising hand has turned to dust. We would pass despite the fact that we can't lead a trump— the hand has enough prime cards to compensate for that

flaw. Q. 4 - As South, vulnerable, you noid: ▲Q7 ♥K95 0AQ1082 4QJ7 The bidding has proceeded: SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST 10 17 14 Page

7
What do you bid now?
A - The obvious choices are one no trump or two diamonds. We think it is more important to describe a ball anced hand with a stopper in the enemy suit than to show a five-card miner.

Q. 5 · East-West vulnerable, as South you hold: ▲K8 OK 10654 oQ 54 WEST NORTH EAST
1 + Dbl Pass
Pass 2 ♥ Pass
What action do you take? EAST

what action to you take?

A - Partner's bid is invitational, showing a hand worth 16-18 points in support of hearts. Since you were on the borderline for a jump response of two hearts initially, the least you can do is accept by going straight to four hearts pow. straight to four hearts not

Q. 6 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold. ▲73 ♥J9852 CAK64 ♣72 The bidding has proceeded:
SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST
Pass Pass 1 7 5 4

What action do you take? A - East's preempt has put you on the spot. You can't tell whether you are cold for slam or whether you are overboard at five hearts. The solu-tion, based on the expectation of sooring two diamond tricks, is to take a sure profit by doubling five diamonds. Don't expect to get rich, but you shouldn't get poorer!

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PTEMBER 17, 1985



the semifinal round, achieved

through a process of cup-

system eliminations, with two

more entering a league-style playoff with the second team

from the Central American

Two teams from that play-

Central American nations.

play more games than

led by Honduras, feel they

are getting slighted by having

North Americans teams to

"Mexico, U.S. and Canada

wait for the elimination of

other countries, getting great advantages," said Honduran federation president Jorge

Abudoj at a meeting this week of Central American

soccer officials in Tegucigal-

pa. "Among those advan-

tages we can cite: less ex-

penses derived from training

camp, no injuries, and no

accumulation of yellow cards.

World Cup since 1950 but

three, 1974, 1982 and 1990

-(when it was banned). The

United States has played in the last two and Canada in

Honduras, Costa Rica and

El Salvador also have reached the World Cup fin-

als, but only Costa Rica has

rankings, based on results

over the last six years. Cana-

da at No. 59 is the lowest

ranked of the North Amer-

icans. Mexico is 10th, the

American nations is Hon-

The highest of the Central

Blazer insists the proce-

dure was developed with the

intent on not only economics.

but qualifying the three best

In the latest FIFA monthly

ever won a game.

United States 19th.

duras at 71st.

Mexico has played in every

get to the same stage.

off make up the last of the 10

three-nation group.

semifinalists.

Competition heats up in 2nd division basketball By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Al Yarmouk Saturday almost secured their place in the final round of the second division basketballchampionship with a crucial 92-61 win over Homentmen who were relegated last year,

Al Yarmouk had surprisingly lost 57-52 to newcomers Al Jeel after easily defeating Al Karak 70-48 to top the Group B standings for now. They will have to await Saturday's late match between Al Karak and Al Jeel and the replayed match of Homentmen and Al Jeel Sunday to secure

Al Jeel had scored a 77-42 win over Homentmen in the competition's opening match but the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) decided to replay the match after it turned out that a Yarmouk player had played on Al Jeel's lineup because of a technical mistake in registration by the

Meanwhile in Group A, Al Hussein and Gazzet Hashem topped the three-team group and advanced to the final round awaiting the Group B winners.

The top four teams will play a knockout final round the vinners of which will battle for the only slot allotted for promotion as the JBF is trying to reduce the number of teams in the country's top division.

Al Hussein and Homentmen who were relegated last year, in addition to Al Yarmouk are the top contenders for, promotion but Al Jeel have proved that they are a team to e reckoned with.

However, Al Yarmouk seem to have the edge as their eam has prepared well with most of their players on the Under-22 which had qualified with the country's top teams - Ahli, Orthodoxi and Jazireh - to the Under-22 final round which was played recently.

The second round of the competition will start Monday and the competition concludes Sept. 20.

S	TAN	DΠ	NGS

ě		G	roup /	Α		
	P	W	Ľ	SF	SA	Pts
* Hussein	2	2		177	126	4
Gazzet Hashem	2	1	1	91	127	3
Ashrafieh ·	· 2	_	2	137	152	2
		G	Proup E	3		
	P	W	L	SF	SA	Pts
			-	214	1//	
Yarmouk	3	2	1	214	166	5
Yarmouk Homentmen	3 2	2 1	i	114 126	153	3
-: -	_	1	1 1 2			

Fredericks not expected for 200 metres

for an investigation," said

African Confederation of

Handball (ACH) secretary

general Zorrino Katsadi.

HARARE (Agencies) -Organizers delayed the men's 200-meter qualifiers in hopes of accommodating Namibian sprinter Frankie Fredericks, but his team said Saturday he still couldn't make it to Harare in time to add star appeal to the All Africa

"There is no way that Fredericks will be here this afternoon," Namibian general team manager Frederick J. Briesley said. He said Sunday world record holder could reach Zimbabwe from Tokyo, where he had been planning to compete in a rival

Earlier in the week, organisers pushed the 200-metre heats from Saturday morning to Saturday evening. South Africanpole vaulter Okkert Brits also was in Tokyo, and the pole vault in Harare had been pushed from Saturday afternoon to Sunday morn-

Fredericks holds the world 200-metre record of 19.72. The All Africa Games record is more than a second slower at 20.77. Brits holds the world pole vault record of .6.14 metres (20.26 feet), only the third man in history to vault over 6 metres (19.8

The All Africa Games have been marred by the absence of several top stars in running, the continent's strength in international

Kenya said steeplechase lampion Moses Kiptanui needed a rest period in his current training for next year's Atlanta Olympics after World Athletics Championships in Sweden and the Grand Prix contest in Swtizerland, where he became the first man to run the 3,000 metre steeplechase in

under eight minutes. Four other top Kenyan, runners skipped Zimbabwe to train for this month's World Military Games in

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Ethiopia's world 5.000 metre record holder Haile Gebreselassie pulled out the Harare meeting at the minute, also because problems with his training schedule. Ethiopian officials said.

Sex test put on hold

Egyptian woman handball player Hanan Eid, suspected All Africa Game officials of really being a man, will not have to undergo a sex test at least for the time being. Two days ago Eid was ordered to take the test after officials became suspicious when she appeared in a

match against Nigeria. "When we saw the player on the field we thought the player could be a male posing as a female hence the need

Central Americans upset over World Cup qualifying procedure

NEW YORK (AP) — It's nearly three years before the 1998 World Cup kicks off and already there is a complaint.

The seven nations that make up the Central American contingent of Concacaf are upset over the proposed qualifying procedure for France '98 that would have them play one more round than there North American counterparts: the United States, Mexico and Canada.

It's an issue the regional confederation has faced before, says Concacaf general secretary Chuck Blazer, but one that economics and geography dictates the past and current solution.

"We do the early part of elimination on a zonal basis." explained Blazer from Concacaf's New York headquarters. "It existed before our administration. The economics and distance of travel need to be addressed. Because of some of the limitations of some countries resources, it would not take very long before countries would go broke trying to qualify

With three teams to qualify this time under the expanded 32-nation format. Concacaf has had to change from last time, when it had only one guaranteed berth besides the

Americans' as host. Essentially the problem is that Canada, Mexico and the United States are given byes until a two-group, 10-team league system semifinal round set for September to December 1996.

From that, three teams from each group advance to a final round of six, which after a league schedule qualifies

three teams. Central America's seven teams would start out being split into one three- and a four-team group, with two teams from the four-nation group and one from the three-country group advancing to the semifinal round.

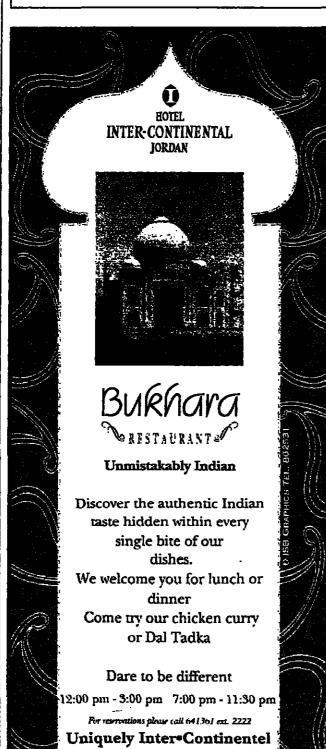
The Caribbean Zone gets two automatic qualifiers in



Richard McGrath - Marriott's Financial Controller

Richard McGrath has assumed his duties as a Financial Controller of the Amman Marriott Hotel effective July 1st, 1995.

Mr. McGrath has two major studies:-Food & Beverage management and Financial Accounting. He worked at Marriott London, Buenos Aires and Aruba until his transfer to the Amman Marriott Hotel.



Atlanta **Olympics** to be smoke-free

1996 Olympics will be smoke-free, including a ban not only on smoking but on advertising of tobacco products, officials said Friday.

Smoking will be forbidden at all Olympic venues "and promotion of tobacco products will be prohibited, including distribution of free samples, coupons and other promotional items," the Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games said.

The policy, the committee said, is consistent with International Olympic Committee ideals of good health and a clean environ-

"Sponsorship of the Olympic Games by tobacco impanies is prohibited, and ACOG will restrict the sale of tobacco products within all venues whenever possible," it said. Dr. John D. Cantwell

ACOG's chief medical officer, described the ban as "collaborative effort among a broad crosssection of members of the medical and health-care

communities.' ACOG said it was working with the centres for disease control and prevention, the Georgia Public Health Department and other agencies to develop an information campaign to explain the no-smoking policy to visitors, athletes and officials from participating countries.

Although restrictions on smoking in public places have become commonplace in the United States, similar rules have met stiff opposition in some countries.

NBA team owners clear way for new season NEW YORK (AP) - The three-year contracts. Train- He said they will bring up

National Basketball Association is back in business.

Club owners ensured six years of labour peace, voting ' 24-5 Friday to approve the collective bargaining agree-ment that players ratified earlier this week. The league's 21/2-month lockout, which prevented offseason signings, will be lifted Monday.

"If you're going to have a lockout, probably the best time to do it is the summertime," NBA Commissioner David Stern said. "But we have alerted the world we're not immune to the dangers of labour strife.

The salary cap will rise from \$15.9 million last season to \$23 million this season, and rookies will be limited to

ing camps will open as scheduled on Oct. 6 and the season will start on time on

Deputy Commissioner Russ Granik said almost all the teams will be over the cap when business resumes Monday because of free agents they don't intend to re-sign who still are on their rosters.

'We think trading activity is pent up and is going to explode, especially among the expansion teams," Stern

Stern said small-market owners expressed concern that they would have more difficulty competing under the new deal, which runs through the 2000-01 season.

their problems again when the league revisits its revenue sharing formulas.

"The overriding item is the level of the salary cap, whee it's being raised to and where it's likely to be raised beyond that." Stern said.

Player representatives voted 25-2 Wednesday to approve the deal, which was agreed to Aug. 8. The union vote came one day after players voted 226-134 not to decertify the union, a move pushed for by Michael Jor-dan, Patrick Ewing and many agents. Rather than ratify the agreement, they thought they could get a better deal by proceeding with an antitrust suit against the owners.

Rangers want to forget Romania

GLASGOW (AFP) - Rangers manager Walter Smith Romania, scene of their midweek defeat to Steaua Bucharest, and get ready for

Rangers' 1-0 defeat in their opening Champions League game was an unexpected setback, having previously beaten the Romanians 40 in

a friendly. What's more, their Danish international Brian Laudrup suffered a thigh injury in the defeat and could well miss

the match at Brockville. "The most important thing for us right now is not to be distracted from our aims." said Smith, whose side also face Celtic in the Coca-Cola

Cup at Parkhead on Tuesday. European or Coca-Cola Cup matches must not deflect us from the prime objective.

which is to retain the cham-

"We've started well with two wins and we want to keep

that run going. Russia striker Oleg Salenko is in line for a recall, while David Robertson can return after being suspended in Romania.

Smith added: "Everyone was disappointed to lose the opening game of a Champions League campaign but you must try and not take that into consideration.

Rangers striker Mark Hateley was undergoing two operations on Friday. The -vear-old requires surgery on cartilage and ankle problems and will be out for around a month.

Falkirk boss John Lambie, who has goalkeeper Tony Parks back, treated the news that Laudrup will be out with typical bluntness: "They have got plenty of other bullets to

They are bound to be dangerous coming off a European defeat but everybody outside Falkirk supporters expects us to get a hammering, so there is no pressure on

Partick manager Murdo Macteod has been trying to make a signing ahead of the game against in-form Hearts at Firhill.

Jim Jefferies' visitors have taken four points from their first two games after collecting only one out of a possible 12 in four opening games last

Raith and Kilmarnock. who are both pointless after two defeats, meet at Stark's

Celtic striker Pierre Van Hooydonk is unlikely to return after a hamstring injury against Motherwell at Park-head.

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1701 TO 2100	24/9/95
2101 TO 2500	25/9/95
2501 TO 2900	26/9/95
2901 TO 3400	27/9/95
3401 TO 3900	28/9/95
3901 TO 4400	30/9/95
4401 TO 4900	1/10/95
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DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Japan's Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama asked Syrian President Hafez Al Assad here Saturday to make fresh efforts to accelerate peace negotiations with Israel, saying time should not

Mr. Murayama also announced that Japan planned to grant Syria a 46.199 billion yen (about \$462 million) soft loan to finance a thermal power plant, as well as aid to set up a power stations training centre (see page 9).

It would also organise a seminar for Syrian officials in October on the transition to market economy, the premier said.

Mr. Assad and Mr. Murayama, on the first visit here by a Japanese head of government, met for more than two hours here to discuss the Middle East peace process and Syria's deadlocked talks with Israel as well as economic cooperation between Tokyo and Damascus. They continued their talks over lunch.

Mr. Murayama was to leave later Saturday for Israel where he said he will "urge the Israeli government to solve the issue on the basis of a land-for-peace exchange' based on U.N. resolutions, a Japanese spokesman said.

"The prime minister de-scribed Syria as a stable factor in the region and said he hoped Syria will continue to take a positive attitude in the Middle East peace process, spokesman Hiroshi Hashimo-

"The Syrian-Israeli peace talks have entered a verv important stage and time should not be lost," Mr. Murayama told Mr. Assad, according to Mr. Hashimoto.

He asked Mr. Assad to send a message to the Israeli people that Syria was making serious efforts to secure lasting peace, the Japanese spokesman said.

Mr. Assad reiterated his country's commitment to a comprehensive peace settlement and blamed Israel for setting obstacles along the path to a solution, his spokesman Jibran Kouriyeh said.

Mr. Murayama is on a re-

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — the Palestine

Liberation Organisation

(PLO) and Israel are close to

agreement on the disputed

issue of participation of East

Jerusalem Arabs in Palesti-

nian elections, a PLO official

PLO negotiator Saeb Ere-

kat, who heads the Palesti-

nian election committee.

said: "We are close to agree-

ment on where Palestinian

Dr. Erekat said interna-

tional observers, supervised

by the European Union,

would monitor the election

complicated issues, and now

we are trying to work out the

Israeli and Palestinian

negotiations have been at

odds over whether East Jeru-

salem Palestinians would be

"This was one of the most

Dr. Erekat told

Jerusalemites will vote."

said on Saturday.

Jerusalemites to

vote at post offices

Gaza Strip.

gional tour that has taken him to Saudi Arabia and Cairo. After Israel he visits Gaza and Jordan before returning home.

His visit here follows last month's decision by the Japanese government to send troops to join a U.N. peacekeeping force deployed on the Golan Heights.

The Japanese contingent. expected to number about 50, would be the first of its kind in the Middle East. It was expected to arrive in February for a two-year tour of duty.

Japan, slowly shaking off foreign policy inhibitions arising from its role in World War II, has been seeking a bigger part in the Middle East to match its huge commercial involvement in a region that provides most of its

vital oil imports.

The Syrian government newspaper Tishrin said: "It is time for Japan to play a key role in the region, equal to the economic clout and importance it has in the world."

Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi, Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa and the deputy premier for economic affairs, Selim Yassin, took part in the talks at the presidential palace.

Mr. Murayama is the third Japanese premier to visit the Middle East since 1978 and the first to come to Damascus since the two countries set up

diplomatic ties in 1953. Japan already plays an active role in the multilateral track of the Middle East peace process that deal with ssues such as economic cooperation and water-sharing. In an interview with

Tishrin published on Saturday, Mr. Murayama said Japan was looking for direct investments in Syria.

Japan is Syria's largest aid provider, with total loan assistance until 1993 of 110 billion yen (around \$1 billion) while grants and technical cooperation amount to three billion yen (\$29 million) and 5.7 billion yen (\$55 mil-

lion) respectively. Tokyo has been involved in three major projects in Syria: an irrigation project in Mashkana, the Banivas power station expansion and the Jandar power station project.



BELGIAN PRINCE VISITS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on Saturday receives Crown Prince Felipe of Belgium. Discussions during the meeting dealt with means to enhance Jordanian-Belgium relations. His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and Belgian Ambassador Guido Courtois attended the meeting. Crown Prince Felipe is on a private visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Political parties are a must in Jordan, 3 leaders affirm

AMMAN (J.T.) — Leaders of three political parties have said political parties in Jordan were a necessity and a vital instrument for democracy, countering rumours that the Jordanian people were fed up with political parties' work.

At a seminar hosted by the International and Islamic Centre for Studies and Information to mark three years since the legalisation of political parties, Jordan Communist Party Secretary General Yacoub Zayadeen said it was untrue that the Jordanian people do not want political parties.

Dr. Zayadeen said parties started to operate in Jordan before the 1930s. He said in the 1940s and 1950s large numbers of young Jordanians joined political parties and sacrificed their youth in defending democracy and the freedom of expression.

When political parties were legalised by the enactment of the Political Parties Law in

September 1992, the country was facing difficult economic conditions and was trying to tackle the problems of unemployment and poverty, said Dr. Zayadeen. This, in addition to external factors such as the collapse of the socialist bloc and the birth of the new world order, made the task of political parties even more

difficult, he added. He said the large number of political parties in Jordan demonstrates the people's desire to serve their country, noting that it was the government which was rejecting licensing political parties before the start of the democratisation process.

Dr. Żayadeen described political parties as schools teaching people politics, economics and public work and to respect others' views.

'We want out society to become civilised, in that our people join parties, popular institutions and unions, because this will give value to life," said the veteran com-

munist leader. Jordan National Alliance Party Secretary General Mijhem Al Khreisha, who also spoke at the seminar, outlined developments in the Jordanian, regional and international arenas since the legislation of political parties

and the effects of these developments on the Jordanian democratisation process. Mr. Khreisha said Jordanian citizens grew up with the impression that political parties were instruments for sabotage. Such an idea was

now in need for update, he All government and nongovernmental deparments and mass media organisations shoulder the responsibility of educating the people of the

role of political parties. Mr. Khreisha voiced concern over the future of democratisation process, saying it might be threatened by rapprochement in ties with some Arab countries.

(Continued on page 7)

Court sentences Filipina to death in UAE murder retrial

Saturday condemned a teenage Filipina maid to death for murder in a shock retrial verdict that rejected her claim she was raped.

15 at the time of the killing,

was originally convicted of

manslaughter in June and

jailed for seven years. But

the court at the same time

also concluded that Baloushi

had raped her and awarded

her financial compensation.

of life in the West Bank and Sixteen-year-old Sarah Balabagan, her head covered There were also disputes in a black veil, began crying over whether Palestinians in after the three-judge panel Jerusalem would vote inside imposed the death penalty for stabbing her Gulf Arab the city or in the West Bank. No Israeli officials were employer Almas Mohammad available for comment. Al Baloushi 34 times.

The contentious issue of "This court charges the de-Jerusalem has been put off fendant with premeditated until negotiations on the final murder and sentences her to status of the Palestinian terrideath," said Chief Judge tories scheduled to start in Ahmad Al Tatwani. May 1996. Ms. Balabagan, who was

Nzo defies Israel South African Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo visited the PLO's unofficial headquarters in East Jerusalem on Saturday despite opposition from Israel.

Mr. Nzo turned up at the headquarters, the Orient House, ahead of the scheduled time of his meeting with senior Palestinian official Faisal Husseini, an AFP correspondent said.

"I came to express my support for the Palestinian peo-

AL 'AIN (Agencies) - An the incident (the killing)." Islamic court in the United Judge Tatwarii told reporters Arab Emirates (UAE) on after pronouncing the death sentence.

> But he also added that the court could not be positive that Baloushi had made a sexual advance. "One of the doctors said there was a tear to the hymen

but the court concluded she is still a virgin. A laboratory concluded there was no sperm," he added. Mr. Tatwani, asked about

marks on the maid's body, said: "These marks are from fingernails. This is natural. the man was fighting death." The dead man's age was

not established in court. His son said he was 85 but Ms. Balabagan said he was in his early 60s. Executions in the UAE are

usually by firing squad.
"It's unfair. I only defended myself, the girl wept after the verdict was announced. She had expected to be acquitted.

Contradictory medical evi-In Manila, the government dence in the retrial, however, expressed shock at the vercast doubt on Ms. Balabadict and President Fidel gan's claim that she had been raped, and the court con-Ramos ordered diplomats to cluded that in any case the file an appeal immediately. while a support group for

Ms. Balabagan's lawyer, Mohammad Al Amin, saidan appeal would be launched within three days.

At a first trial, whose ver dict was annulled at the order of President Zaved Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, the same court ruled she had been raped but condemned the girl to seven years in jail.

Baloushi's family and the prosecution had demanded the death sentence, denying Ms. Balabagan was raped and contending she was guilty of premeditated murder. The Philippine embassy

has been paying for Ms. Balabagan's legal costs. Manila has been watchingthe case closely while stepping up efforts to defend its expatriate workers since another maid, Flor Contem-

March in Singapore for a double murder. Mr. Ramos appealed to Sheikh Zaved for Ms. Balabagan's pardon or clemency.

placion, was executed in

Mr. Amin and Philippine Ambassador Roy Seneres have repeatedly asked for Ms. Balabagan to be acquitted, saying she was acting in self-defence when she killed Baloushi with the knife he used to rape her.

Egypt has 'proof' linking Sudan to Mubarak attack

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has a proof that Khartoum helped militants infiltrate from Sudan to Ethiopia for a failed attempt to kill Presi-dent Hosni Mubarak in Addis Ababa in June, a newspaper reported Satur-

day.
"Sudanese security forces facilitated the entry and exit of the terrorists through Khartoum airport and gave them official letters to make their mission easier with the airport and airlines," the daily Al Ahram said.

Egypt had official documents "bearing the names of the terrorist elements and easing their entry to Khartourn airport from Pakistan and their taking off on a Sudanese plane to Addis Ababa a short time before the attack" on Mr. Mubarak.

The documents included proof that "they left without finishing the required proce-dures for travellers," includ-ing a "letter to the head of passport control at Khartoum airport marked top secret, the paper said.

The documents also show letters booking two seats on an official Sudanese carrier out of Addis Ababa "only hours after the attack, giving names of two of those accused (in the attack), Hussein Ahmad Shemil and Sherif Abdul Rahman.'

Shemil, also known as Serag, took the return flight, while Abdul Rahman was wounded during the ambush on Mr. Mubarak's motorcade and later shot dead by Ethiopian police, the paper said.

Shemil has a Sudanese passport and citizenship and carried a false Ethiopian passport on the flight to Addis ababa, Al Ahram said. The documents were unco-

vered during Ethiopia's investigation into the assassination attempt, the paper said. Ann Egyptian Foreign Ministry official told AFP on

Friday that Egypt and Ethiopia were "examining retaliatory measures against the Sudanese regime after the discovery of evidence linking it" to the attack.

Khartoum has denied any link to the plot to kill Mr. Mubarak. It says it is searching for three of the wouldbe assassins who fled to Sudan after the attack, according to Ethiopia, but one of them ever entered its territory. Khartoum wants dialogue

Sudan called Saturday for faculty had summarily ex-dialogue with students who ecuted three students after led a wave of demonstrations separating them from the in Khartoum and said it. others.

would release some of those arrested during the protests.

"Security authorities have

ligthened control over the

sources of recent demonstrations and arrangements will be started for the release of the detainees," the daily Akhbar Al Youm reported. An unidentified official told the daily that ther government "intends to pursue its goal of achieving political detente to provide the opportunity for all political forces to work together."

Two prominent leftist lawyers arrested during the unrest, Mustafa Abdul Qader and Mohammad Ali Al Sayed, would soon be released, the paper said.

Security forces rounded up almost 500 people following the anti-government protests which began on Monday and left at least three people dead. The demonstrations were the largest since President Omar Al Bashir took power in 1989.

An Akhbar Al Youm editorial urged Sudan's leaders to 'bear in mind Bashir's call to listen to the other viewpoint.

We should not just say the students were agitated by remnants of the (banned) Communist Party or leftist forces. We should learn the motives that made them respond to the agitation and handle the matter wisely."

Khartoum accused Ethiopia and Eritrea, along with local leftists, of stirring up the disturbances. •

The paper noted that stern warnings from the Interior Ministry succeeded in ending the trouble after vowing to act "resolutely and decisively" towards any new demonstrations.

Anti-riot police remained in Khartoum on Saturday, posted at the corners of the main streets, witnesses in the capital said.

Amnesty International ex-pressed "deep concern" Friday for the safety of those under detention.

In a statement issued in London, Amnesty said: "We are deeply concerned that some of the prisoners have been tortured following reports of severe beatings by security officials... Some of those arrested are prisoners of conscience and should be released immediately."

ports that security forces who went into the engineering faculty had summarily ex-

Lost Monteverdi opera makes triumphant return

LONDON (R) - A Mon-

teverdi opera commissioned for a royal wedding and loss for 300 years made a triumphant return after being "recomposed" from a surviving fragment. Opera fans at London's famed Covent Garden cheered Friday night at the finale of "Arianna: lost opera by Claudio Monteverdi, composed again by Alexander Goehr suggesting the 140-year-old opera house had landed itself a hit. Pink-winged angels descended on chairs from the sky, the heroine was winched from the sea through a neon-rimmed hole in the stage and gods a dropped from the heavens in boxes. The 16 musicians and conductor Ivor Bolton performed mid-stage with the singers and the deep blue set was Spartan, as it would have been in Monteverdi's time. But with extra bars still being written last week, the opera could not be more contemporary - and the fans loved it. "It was absolutely wonderful. It showed the big positive emotions, not just despair and depression," Richard Crockett, whose favourite орега Beethoven's Fidelio. came for Goehr," said Peter Kinnison, a Tchaikovsky, Berlioz and Stravinsky, "It was supposed to be Monteverdi and it did actually work beautifully." Originally commissioned in Italy in 1608, the opera tells the myth of Anadne (Arianna), abandoned on the island of Naxos by Theseus. career-conscious prince of Athens, and her rescue by the Greek god Bacchus. Written to celebrate the marriage of Prince Francesco to Margherita of

Liz laylor in the hospital for irregular heartbeat

Savoy, the score vanished

10 years later when the Ital-

ian city of Mantua was

sacked by imperial troops.

Only Ottavio Rinuccini's

libretto and a fragment of

the score, Arianna's famous

lament, have survived.

LOS ANGELES (R) -Actress Elizabeth Taylor, whose career has been punctuated by a series of health problems, has been admitted to a California hospital suffering from an irregular heartbeat, her doctor said Friday. "She is there for evaluation and is doing fine," Dr. Charles Freedman said in a statement. He said Ms. Taylor, 63, was taken w St. John's Hospital in Santa Monica Thursday afternoon "for an irregularity of her heart rhythm." a spokeswoman for the hospital west of Los Angeles said there was no word on when the two-time Academy Award winning actress will be released. Bruce Hensel, medical adviser for Los Angeles TV station KNBC, said Ms. Taylor's doctor told him "she was resting comfortably and was in no immediate danger." "If all. goes well, he plans to just keep her in the hospital for 3 couple of days and send her home," Mr. Hensel said. Last June Ms. Taylor underwent right hip replacement surgery, just 15 months after a similar operation on the

New law to wean French drivers off liquid lunches

left hip.

PARIS (AP) — Drinking and driving, as French as Burgundy with brie, was targeted by a tough new law that makes many people legally drunk after more than two glasses of wine. Only two? Sacre Bleu 529 some French intent on maintaining their beloved "bon vivant" lifestyle Some even say they'll stay a step ahead of police by keeping a breath analyser of their own in the glovebox. "Working your way through a good bottle of wine is one of life's great pleasures," said Dominique Levalle of Versailles, sipping Chablis at a

eligible to run for positions killing was not connected. "There is no linkage beoverseas workers said it ple," Mr. Nzo said, according on the Palestinian council would mount street protests. which would run most aspects to PLO officials. tween the sexual advance and Brotherhood activists go on trial in Egypt

HEIKSTEP (Agencies) -Egypt's military court opened trial of 49 leading members of Muslim Brotherhood, the country's largest and most influential fundamentalist group, on Saturday on charges of forming illegal group, plotting against the state and violating constitutional laws.

The defendants were brought in three blue military trucks to the desert army camp of Heikstep, north of Cairo. About 14 police jeeps and two armoured personnel carriers escorted them.

The 49 — lawyers, former members of parliament, university professors, religious scholars, doctors and engineeres — peered out through the tiny barred windows of the trucks and waved the V-victory to the few foreign journalists outside.
"Peace be upon you."

some shouted faintly. Foreign journalists and television crew were banned from attending the hearings to prevent them interviewing earlier elections, prompting

the men who often show signs of torture by police trying to extract confessions. Only the government-controlled press was allowed.

This is the first mass trial of Brotherhood members since 1965 and confirms the government's determination to clamp down on the organisation which was founded in

Members of Brotherhood cannot stand for election in the name of the organisation but in previous elections they have stood under the umbrella of recognised parties, with other Brotherhood members helping to organise their cam-

paigns.
"The government is targettheir rising and wide popularity... it is afraid they will win the forthcoming elections." lawyer Abdul Halim Rama-

dan said. The Muslim Brotherhood has won control of the lawyers, doctors, teachers and engineers syndicates in the government to introduce a law in 1993 which made it much harder for them to take over syndicate leadership. After years of turning a blind eye to their activities. the government has in the past year tried to equate the Brotherhood with the violent

militants trying to overthrow the state. The Brotherhood, which believes in establishing a. strict Islamic state through political means, denied any link to the more militant Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah seeking to topple the state through

violent means. Earlier this year President Hosni Mubarak accused the Brotherhood of providing support for militant armed groups. He called them "terrorists" and detained about 150 members.

The Brotherhood was locked in a violent confrontation with Abdul Nasser but they enjoyed good relations with Egypt's Anwar Sadat who freed their jailed leaders in

The Brotherhood has disavowed violence in trying to bring about Islamic rule and claims tens of thousands of members in Egypt. The Brotherhood has charged that the crackdown is a government attempt to curb its power before parliamentary elections in November. The men, who said little

during the proceedings, stood behind a cage of bars and wire mesh set up inside the corwded courtroom. At one point, two women in veils walked over to the cage and passed biscuits to their relaives behind the bars.

Journalists were searched as they entered the court and soldiers stood near family members and lawvers inside. "All of these charges are

completely false, whatever we did was constitutional and legal." Assam Al Iryan, one of the defendants, told a reporter. "The real reason (for the arrests) is the government's fear of our popularity in the voting districts."

Mr. Iryan carried a copy of

the Egyptian constitution, citing provisions that ensure the right to meet peacefully and to freely participate in elections. Despite the trial, he said he still plans to run for parliament as an independent candidate.

The government has accused the men of supporting an illegal group and trying to run in an election as a religious party, which is forbidden by law. They face up to seven years in prison.

Human rights advocates have said a fair trial is impossible before military courts, which do not allow appeals and have handed down stiff sentences. Some defenandsts scoffed at the proceedings.
"Had this case taken the

regular procedure they would not have proven anything. That's why they took the case to the military court." said Sayyid Abdul Magsood Askar, 62, another defendant who works at Al Azhar, a leading centre of Muslim scholarship in Cairo.

route. The other two planes had landed safely in Amman. U.N. disarmament official to visit Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — The deputy head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq is to visit Baghdad on Sunday to follow up on new revelations about its banned weapons programmes, a U.N. official here said. Charles Duelfer will meet Oil Minister Amer Rashed, who is in charge of negotiations with UNSCOM. Iraq handed over new information on its arms programmes after the August 8 defection to Jordan of former Industry Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan, whom Baghdad accused of concealing the data. UNSCOM chief Rolf Ekeus said the Iraqi government admitted to a far larger and more advance germ warfare programme than was previously

NEWS IN BRIEF

SHANNON (AFP) - A Royal Jordanian (RJ) Airlines jet

which landed here after a bomb scare was given permission

to continue its journey Saturday after an army search

revealed nothing, airport officials said. The plane flew from

this western Irish airport on to New York's Kennedy

Airport later Saturday. The 267 passengers and crew on

board the Lockheed 10-11 flying from Amsterdam were

evacuated while the Irish army's bomb disposal unit carried

out the search. The plane made an emergency landing here

Friday after a phone call was made to police in Amsterdam

saying that a bomb had been placed on board a Royal

Jordanian airlines plane in the city's Schipol airport. Of the

three Jordanian planes which had departed from Schipol

since the bomb alert, only the New York flight was still en

RJ jet given all clear after scare

Japan to give \$14 m in grant to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — The Japanese government will offer Jordan three grants worth \$14 million, according to sources at the Ministry of Planning. The sources said the grants will be used for increasing food production, controlling environmental pollution and purchasing education material. The Jordanian and Japanese governments will sign agreements on the contracts on Sunday at the Ministry of Planning. The agreements will be signed by Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf and Japanese Ambassador Takayuki

Jordan, Philippines sign aviation accord

AMMAN (Petra) - Jordan and the Philippines on Saturday signed a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in civil aviation and air transport, capping two days of talks between officials from the two countries at the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA). The memo allows Royal Jordanian and the Philippines national airlines to operate two weekly flights between the two countries.